

THE TIMES



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SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23 1996

TODAY

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**STANDARD
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EVERY
MONDAY**

PLUS: WEEKEND, CAR 96, 1015 FOR YOUNG TIMES READERS. THE BEST OF THE YOUNG TIMES IN A SPECIAL EDITION.

Major spared intervention on EMU

New Labour will ruin it, says Thatcher

By PHILIP WEBSTER,
ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND
ANDREW PIERCE

BARONESS THATCHER threw a lifeline to John Major last night in his latest crisis over Europe by delivering a ferocious attack on Tony Blair's New Labour and the continuing worldwide threat of socialism.

As the Labour leadership and Conservative rebels tightened the screw on Mr Major over his refusal to grant a Commons debate on the single currency, the former Prime Minister dashed the hopes of leading Euro-sceptics that she might back their case and instead called on the nation not to let Labour jeopardise the achievements of 18 years of Thatcherism.

Giving the Nicholas Ridley memorial lecture in London, Lady Thatcher steered clear of the controversy raging in the Tory ranks, as the Prime Minister faced the prospect of a Commons defeat on three European Union regulations that pave the way for the introduction of the single currency.

Her speech contained a warm tribute to Mr Major's "persistence, imagination and skill" in carrying forward the Thatcherite agenda of the 1980s. According to her aides, she was determined not to become involved in the internal party dispute, which she felt would conflict with her message about the dangers of



Thatcher: sidestepped internal party dispute

Labour. "She wants to win. She is not going to get involved in what is happening now. Her view is that we must not throw it all away," a close aide told reporters at Westminster.

Lady Thatcher declared that "socialism is not dead, it is not even asleep; it is visibly stirring". While Labour appeared to have adopted Tory philosophies of the 1980s, it could not understand why they worked.

If the British people did not feel good about the economy today, "I can only warn them that they will feel distinctly worse if they wake up after polling day to discover they've put in a Labour government. Some slogans run and run: so let me repeat — Don't let Labour ruin it."

Her decision to keep out of the dispute brought some relief to Mr Major, still reeling from the attack on him by

rightwingers, pro-Europeans and the opposition parties over his claim that the single currency regulations had already received Commons "scrutiny" and there was no need for a separate debate.

The Prime Minister, in a letter to Tony Blair, last night reiterated his view that the standing committee was the right forum to examine the documents.

The stakes were raised yesterday by Sir George Gardiner, a leading right-winger, who declared: "The Government's finger is hovering over the self-destruct button. I am off to update my election plans."

Several Tory MPs said privately that they could not be relied on to back Mr Major in a confidence vote, but their threats were clearly part of a strategy to persuade him to relent.

Labour gave formal notice that unless the Prime Minister bowed to demands for a debate in which Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, would speak, it would vote against the motion the Government still has to table for the Commons, which will state that the European monetary union documents have been scrutinised.

MPs cannot see how Mr Major could get the motion Continued on page 2, col 3

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O.J. Simpson arrives at court for the opening of the hearing yesterday

OJ tells court marks on wife's face came from her makeup

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

WITH a packed courtroom hanging on his every word, O.J. Simpson began his long-awaited evidence in his civil hearing yesterday by flatly denying he had ever punched or slapped his former wife.

Two and a half years after Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend, Ronald Goldman, were left dead in a pool of blood, a composed Mr Simpson did his best to deflect several hours of hostile examination on his violent relationship with his wife.

In a typically tense exchange, the lawyer asked if Mr Simpson hit his wife on New Year's Eve seven years ago. "I feel totally responsible for every injury she had," Mr Simpson replied. "I didn't ask you if you felt responsible," Mr Petrocelli shot back. "I asked you how the injuries got there."

Barely a minute into the questioning in the Santa Monica court, Mr Petrocelli had begun zeroing in on a history of clashes between Mr Simpson and his wife.

Daniel Petrocelli, a lawyer for the Brown Simpson and Goldman families, tried with little success to goad Mr Simpson with pictures of a cut and bruised Ms Brown Simpson taken after a row in 1989.

"At one point I had her in a headlock" while trying to wrestle her out of the bedroom. Mr Simpson agreed. But, asked how his then wife had received a cut lip and ugly bruising, he replied: "I don't know."

Later, the defendant suggested that the redness in the photographs came from his wife washing her face and putting on make-up.

Mr Petrocelli asked whether Ms Brown Simpson had lied when she wrote in journals and told others that Mr Simpson had hit her. "Yes," Mr Simpson replied.

Mr Simpson's most keenly awaited evidence will be about the hour of 10pm to 11pm on June 12, 1994, when the two victims were killed. He has never had to give an alibi in court for that period. But yesterday Mr Petrocelli homed in on five episodes of domestic violence, four of

which Mr Simpson denied took place.

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Initially, Mr Simpson said, "there were a few bad times". Mr Petrocelli: "And it was a passionate relationship at times, yes?" "Yes." "And it was a problem relationship at times?" Mr Simpson denied that.

As he has proved before, America's most vilified free man was unflappable under scrutiny. But after surviving last year's criminal trial without giving evidence, he has stored up trouble for himself with conflicting versions of his whereabouts at the time of the killings. Was he chipping golf balls on his darkened lawn, as he claimed in one carefully controlled interview, or reading in his darkened house?

Lawyers for the Brown Simpson and Goldman families, whose action claiming wrongful death led to the present case, will examine the story over three days that could destroy what remains of the credibility of the former actor and baseball player.

The queue for 16 seats was a block long by 9am. The seats were assigned by lottery.

Hostage Briton on stretcher

Christopher Howes, the British hostage held by the Khmer Rouge, failed to make a rendezvous with his rescuers in western Cambodia last night after collapsing from exhaustion at the end of his eight months' captivity. He became a stretcher case as he and his companions made their way towards government forces.

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The Times on the Internet
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Smaller paracetamol packs urged to reduce overdoses

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

The Government moved yesterday to tighten controls on paracetamol, the painkiller responsible for 30,000 hospital admissions and more than 100 deaths every year.

Smaller packs and more information about the dangers are among the changes suggested in a consultation exercise launched by Gerald Malone, the Minister of Health, to reduce the risks of liver damage. The move was welcomed by a liver specialist, Dr Gary Bray of Southend Hospital, but attacked by SmithKline Beecham, who manufacture paracetamol.

Dr Bray said: "I think it's entirely sensible. I think it's all

down to availability of a potentially lethal compound which people can use to kill themselves. If we can reduce the amount of paracetamol people have access to, it's possible we will reduce the number of people who manage to kill themselves."

But Dr John Dent of SKB Consumer Healthcare saw no need for change, adding: "We are confident the findings of the consultation will reinforce the excellent safety and efficacy profile, in particular the unparalleled safety of paracetamol in normal use."

Mr Malone said painkillers are extremely safe in normal use. "The way forward is to ensure that full and accurate information reaches consumers. That information should be conveyed both on the label and in a patient leaflet, in a pack whose size meets their needs without leaving large numbers in the bathroom cabinet," he said.

Pressure to control the painkiller's sales has been growing. Though safe when taken at the recommended dose — a maximum of eight tablets a day — as few as 20 tablets taken at once can cause irreversible liver damage.

Last month, the Chief Medical Officer in Scotland, Sir David Carter, called for paracetamol to be banned. Previously Professor of Surgery and director of the liver unit at the Royal Edinburgh Infirmary, he said one in ten of the unit's transplants was for paracetamol poisoning.

The mother of Diana, Princess of Wales, was fined £400 and banned for a year yesterday after being found guilty of drink-driving. Frances Shand Kydd, 60, denied driving with more than 2½ times the legal limit of alcohol in her blood.

Biggest market rise in five years

The stock market had its biggest one-day rise in more than five years yesterday, the FTSE 100 index rising 64.9 points to 4018.7. Dealers went on a buying spree in the expectation that Kenneth Clarke will produce a tight Budget. Fund managers have struggled off concern about a Labour Government imposing a windfall tax on utilities and have chosen to increase their weightings in the shares.

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Shand Kydd fine

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Arms collector, 84, murdered for twelve of his handguns

BY DANIEL MCGRORY

DETECTIVES believe an 84-year-old firearms collector was beaten and murdered by thieves who knew he kept handguns in his Kent home.

Their victim, Kenneth Speakman, was a retired town clerk in Ramsgate and former army ammunition expert who fought to stop the thieves taking 12 handguns and pistols kept in locked cabinets.

His attackers forced Mr Speakman to reveal where he kept his armoury of more than 40 weapons in different rooms in his three-storey house, but they left behind ten rifles he used for deer hunting and a collection of antique weapons. Detective Superintendent Nick Biddiss, of Kent police,

said the thieves' only interest was the stock of automatic handguns, which included a .33 Smith and Wesson, a Luger, a Walther PPK pistol and ammunition for the small arms.

Mr Speakman was attacked sometime between Monday



Speakman: strangled

night and Wednesday night as he answered his front door in Park Road. He was dragged through the house and made to open the heavily padlocked steel cabinets where the arms were stored. They then strangled Mr Speakman and left his body in a downstairs room.

Jacqueline Walsh, of the Dunblane Snowdrop petition, said: "This crime surely strengthens our case. Even though they were kept in locked cabinets, these guns were still stolen."

Mr Speakman prided himself that he still hunted deer in Scotland every summer and belonged to a number of gun clubs in Kent. He was a former captain in the Royal

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THE TIMES ON MONDAY

15 PAGES OF TIMES SPORT

10P

WEEKEND DRIVERS

Oliver Holt on the thrills and spills of the RAC rally

HOLLYWOOD TAKES ON TWICKENHAM

Andrew Longmore on Phil de Glanville's debut

WHO IS LONDON'S TOP TEAM?

Rob Hughes on Arsenal v Tottenham Hotspur

PLUS HOW TO STOP WORKING AND START LIVING

Why you are never too young to retire

MELVYN BRAGG

MATTHEW PARRIS

The Columnist of the Year

'She will do nothing that seems to rock the boat'

Thatcher resists urge to inflame Europe row

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BARONESS THATCHER resisted strong pressure right up until the last moment to rewrite last night's speech to make a decisive intervention in the latest European row which has engulfed her successor.

The former Prime Minister was badly torn. Some friends argued it would be a betrayal of her natural instincts not to wade into the single currency debate which has united Europhiles with Euro-sceptics in their opposition to John Major.

But the alternative view, championed by Lord Parkinson and Sir Tim Bell, the architects of her election successes, was to steer clear of an internal party feud which she could not resolve but only inflame.

They argued that any diversion into Europe would overshadow her attack on Tony Blair's threat to her legacy. Their view prevailed. Just.

As Lady Thatcher prepared to retire, in the early hours yesterday, her emotions were mixed. It was the sixth anniversary of her resignation as Prime Minister.

But, as she re-read the final

draft of her speech, she reflected that the very European issue which had brought her down was now convulsing the parliamentary party.

Her speech had been billed in advance as loyal to the Prime Minister and tough on Tony Blair. But after the chaotic scenes in the Commons in the ensuing 24 hours, some of her allies pressed hard for her to rethink.

"Only one phrase about the need for a proper debate on the merits of a single currency was needed," said one last night. "We pressed her on it. She is deeply troubled. But she said she was in a no-win situation."

The telephone rang throughout Thursday and yesterday morning at her office in Chesham Place with conflicting messages. Meetings went on through the morning. The speech was fine-tuned even after copies had been sent to Downing Street and Conservative Central Office.

Robin Harris, her chief of staff, argued that the policy high ground was more important than being accused of inflaming internal party feuds which were not of her own



Sir Tim Bell: argued for steering clear of feud

creation. Sir Tim, who remains one of her closest advisers despite masterminding Mr Major's "New Labour New Danger" advertising campaign, was the decisive influence. Sir Tim stage-managed the presentation of the speech. Elizabeth Buchanan, one of his employees, briefed the press.

Lord Parkinson, who was the intermediary with Downing Street and Conservative Central Office and helped to organise last night's dinner, also played a key role.

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in convincing Lady Thatcher to bury her own private feelings and stay above the Parliamentary fray.

A question and answer session after the ESS head dinner, where Lady Thatcher would have been at risk of departing if the agreed line was ruled out.

"She will do nothing now to be seen as rocking the boat. She will not be blamed, or allow the blame to be heaped on her friends, for losing the Tories the election. What ever misgivings she may have, she fears a Blair government even more. That is why she stayed on side," said the ally.

Some of her most notable supporters in the Commons were conspicuous by their absence last night. John Redwood was speaking in the Great Yarmouth constituency of Michael Cartiss, a prominent Euro-sceptic, who has attacked John Major's handling of the issue. Peter Lilley was also in his constituency. Bill Cash, one of her most staunch supporters, had a pre-arranged speaking engagement for Michael Heseltine in the House of Commons.

Giving the inaugural Nicholas Ridley memorial lecture last night, Lady Thatcher spoke of the combined dangers under Labour of a resurgent trade union movement alongside Brussels' growing influence over workplace

Labour is unlikely to table a confidence motion, believing that to be the surest way of patching up Tory unity. Iain Duncan-Smith, the Euro-sceptic MP for Chingford, said yesterday that he would be waiting to see the Prime Minister's response over the next few days. However, he said: "There must be some sort of commitment to have this debate."

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said the Government had no desire to stifle genuine debate on the single currency issue. MPs would have a chance to raise the issue in a full-scale Commons debate on Europe before next month's summit.

Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, said: "I am serving notice today on the Government that Labour will

vote down their motion unless it provides for a full debate in Parliament on these profoundly important decisions."

"Given the anger in the House of Commons at the Government's refusal to face a debate, there is every likelihood that the Government will be defeated in the vote."

The dispute centres upon three documents dealing with largely technical aspects of economic and monetary union. However, as one of them considers a possible restructuring of the European exchange-rate mechanism and another discusses a "stability pact" that would curb spending powers of participants in a single currency,

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Princess's mother is convicted of drink-driving

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

The mother of Diana, Princess of Wales was convicted of drink-driving yesterday after being told by the Oban Sheriff that the evidence she had given under oath was unreliable. He fined her £400 and banned her from driving for a year.

Frances Shand Kydd, 60, denied driving with more than 2½ times the legal limit of alcohol in her blood. She was acquitted on a second charge of failing to give a roadside breath test without reasonable cause.

Sheriff William Dunlop said that being so far over the limit would normally warrant much more than the minimum 12-month ban, but he had borne in mind the remoteness of her home on the island of Seil, Argyll, and her 42-year unblemished driving record. The maximum sentence for drink-driving is

six months' imprisonment and a £5,000 fine.

Leaving Oban Sheriff Court after 88 minutes in the witness box, Mrs Shand Kydd smiled but refused to answer questions. In her defence, she accused police and a police doctor of lying under oath and said that her signature had been forged on a form meant to record her consent to blood tests.

But Sheriff Dunlop, who took 50 minutes to reach his verdict having heard evidence from 12 witnesses, said he accepted the testimonies of Michael Woods and Raymond Law, both police constables, and Dr Colin Wilson. "I accordingly reject the evidence of the accused," he said, adding: "I am prepared to

accept that she could not remember what happened."

He acknowledged that distressing news she had received by letter that day, combined with the pain of an ankle injury and the distress caused by crowds who gathered round her car, "had undoubtedly affected her emotionally". The contents of the letter were not revealed in court.

He told her: "I cannot in these circumstances accept your evidence as reliable."

Mrs Shand Kydd was arrested in the seaside town of Oban on Good Friday this year after an off-duty officer saw her walking unsteadily to her green Vauxhall Cavalier, which was parked opposite the

police station. After bumping into other vehicles she got into her car and driven off. Constable Woods said that when he stopped her ten minutes later she was slurring, her eyes were red and glazed, and her car smelled of alcohol.

But giving evidence for the first time yesterday, Mrs Shand Kydd said that the officers and doctor had lied. She had never signed police form 482, which outlined correct procedures for taking blood samples and confirmed that her consent had been obtained.

Police subsequently lost the form and only a photocopy, taken before it went missing, was available to the court. Mrs Shand Kydd's evidence was supported by John

MacCrae, an independent handwriting expert formerly employed by Strathclyde police. He said: "There is more which would be acceptable in saying it is a forgery, than it is genuine."

Mrs Shand Kydd said that after being unable to provide a breath sample because of a lung infection, she had not been asked to give blood, had not been offered a duplicate phial, and had not signed the form. Speaking clearly and without hesitation, she said the events of that day were "ingrained on her mind". In the morning she had visited her doctor about an ankle injury that she said accounted for her unsteady walk. On returning home she had become

upset by a letter and had cried, which had made her eyes red.

She was not aware that she had committed an offence by refusing a roadside breath test, which Sheriff Dunlop accepted. She told the court: "I have been totally accurate in what I have told you. For me the truth is readily, wholly and easily within my grasp."

The court had earlier been told that she had told police that she had been fasting because it was Good Friday and had drunk some wine that morning. Tests revealed that she had 206 milligrams of alcohol in 100 millilitres of blood. The limit is 80.

Mrs Shand Kydd moved to Seil after leaving the Princess's father, the late Earl Spencer, in 1969. She lived there with her second husband, Peter Shand Kydd, until he left her in 1983. After the separation she was said to have lived an isolated life with few visitors.



Shand Kydd: insisted that she was telling the truth

Shame of debt led boy into gun raid

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A PUBLIC schoolboy held up a building society at gunpoint in an attempt to solve the financial problems he did not dare admit to his family.

Douglas Taylor had just finished his A-level examinations when he left the £12,000-a-year Keswick School and crossed the road to a Bradford and Bingley office. The teenager, wearing sunglasses and a balaclava, pointed a pistol at the head of John McAlister, the only person in the office, and said: "Don't mess me about, give me the money."

Carlisle Crown Court was told that Taylor hoped to steal enough to clear £700 debts but his plan went wrong when Mr McAlister could not find the key to the safe. The financial adviser grabbed the gun and forced it aside. The pistol went off during the struggle, and only when it fired a blank did Mr McAlister realise that it was not a real weapon.

Taylor slipped away and showed "remarkable calm" by returning to his school and carrying on as if nothing had happened, Tony Eaton, for the prosecution, said. He was arrested after the school matron heard about the robbery attempt and found the clothes he had worn under his bed.

Taylor, 19, of Holmewood, Derbyshire, pleaded guilty to attempted robbery and possessing an imitation firearm. He was sent to a young offenders' institution for three years.

The boy told detectives that he had carried out the raid because he had not wanted to upset his parents by admitting his debts. Rod Halligan, for Taylor, said that two days before the raid the boy had received a bank letter demanding that his debt be cleared but he could not bring himself to tell his father. "He clearly saw his father as a man he could not live up to. The expectations in his own mind were too great," Mr Halligan said.

Howard Allen, headmaster of the Lake District school, described the boy as "a perky, bubbly character" who had suffered emotionally when his parents split up. "We expected him to go to university and do well," he said. Taylor had eight good GCSEs but got only two grade Ds at A level, not enough to pursue the diplomatic career his parents had hoped for.



Ffion Aynsley, the captain, in action yesterday. She remembers: "They said girls could not play football"

Parents angered by decision to substitute England kit

By JOHN GOODBODY
SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

THE decision to change the design of the England football team's kit in January, a month after many parents will have bought the current replica shirts for their children as Christmas presents, was criticised by football supporters yesterday.

The present strip, worn by the England team during Euro 96 last summer, will immediately become outdated for fashion-conscious youngsters as Umbro, the official manufacturers, begins selling the new kit, which will last until after the 1998 World Cup finals in France.

In May, England will also be changing its much-criticised grey away strip, adding to the belief that supporters are being exploited in

their eagerness to have the kit that the national team is wearing. The new away shirt will be red, the colour in which England beat West Germany in the 1966 World Cup final.

The leading supporters' organisations, already angry at the way that Premiership clubs frequently redesign their shirts, were united in their condemnation. Steve Beauchamp, of the Football Supporters' Association, said: "A lot of England supporters will be upset. However, this will be balanced by the decision that England is getting rid of the grey kit, which has been very unpopular."

He added that the England replica shirts often sold for £35 to £40, even without a player's name printed on the back. Lillywhite's of Piccadilly, central London, sells a complete

A football shirt once worn by Alan Shearer, the £15 million Newcastle United and England striker, was sold for £810 in aid of the Children in Need appeal yesterday. Sean McNicholas, director of a Hartlepool civil engineering firm, made the winning bid on BBC Radio Newcastle after his wife, Tracy, had been given the shirt to donate to the appeal.

England football kit — shirt, shorts and socks — for £64.

Tony Kershaw, the chairman of the National Federation of Football Supporters' Clubs, said: "I would imagine that most parents who are buying Christmas presents of the England replica kit — which could be thou-

sands after the team's success in Euro 96 — have probably bought them."

"To allow people to do this and then have a change early in the year seems like they are wanting to clear the old stock first before producing a new one."

Mr Kershaw said that if people had already bought the present, that present had been devalued. "I can well imagine little Johnny going to school, and the lads will be pulling his leg for having last year's kit."

However Umbro, the manufacturer, insisted that retailers were already discounting the price of existing shirts and pointed out that the shirt was still "very valuable and will be a collectors' item".

Marin Prothero, Umbro's director of sports marketing (Europe), added:

"We announced two years ago that the shirts would be changed in 1997. The new kit will remain for at least two years." Asked whether he did not think that the timing before Christmas was unfortunate, he replied: "I think that is fair comment."

□ The England Rugby Union team will finally end the amateur era when it plays in shirts emblazoned with the name of its sponsor, Cefelnet, for the international against Italy at Twickenham this afternoon.

Michael Humphreys, the Rugby Football Union's spokesman, said yesterday: "We are recognising the commercial value of these shirts. On the shirts of other countries, such as Australia, the sponsor's name is displayed in three places."

Football, pages 54-56

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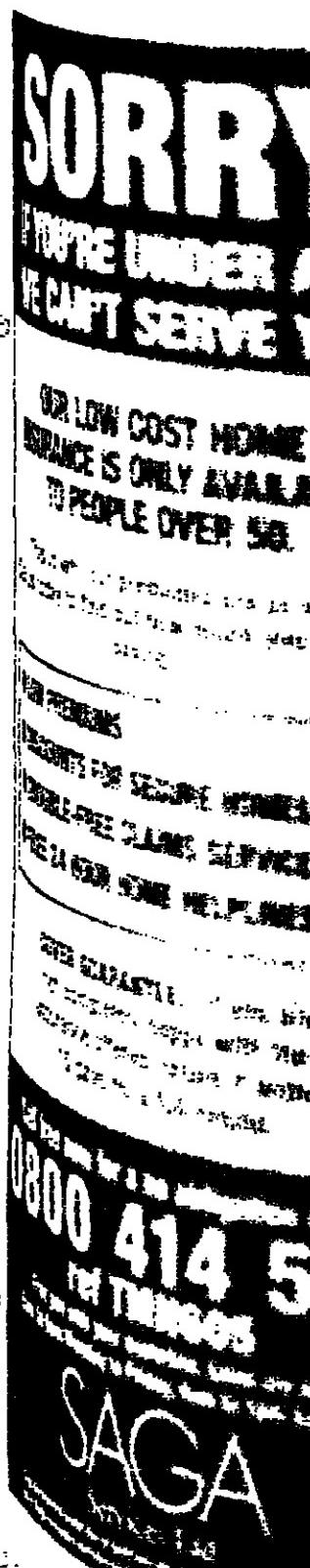
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Astonishment at reasons for ban on widow's baby

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE four reasons why Diane Blood cannot have her dead husband's baby were disclosed by the Government's fertility watchdog yesterday and greeted with astonishment, distress and derision by the widow and her doctor.

Among the objections cited by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority were that Stephen Blood, who was in a coma dying from meningitis when his sperm was removed, had received no counselling beforehand.

It said: "Parliament has enacted a careful code allowing for the posthumous use of sperm only if specific requirements are met. In particular, there is a clear requirement for the written and effective consent of a man after he has had the opportunity to receive counselling and after he has had a proper opportunity to consider the implications of a posthumous birth. These important requirements were not met in this case."

The authority also complained that Mrs Blood had no connection with Belgium, where a team of world-class doctors in Brussels have agreed to her request for assisted conception.

The HFEA was reluctant to accept the widow's word that



Stephen Blood: died without giving consent

her husband had consented during a discussion after reading a magazine article at their home, to having his sperm used if he should die. Finally, it pointed out that Mr Blood had never considered, let alone consented to, having his sperm taken abroad.

The HFEA, which spent all Thursday afternoon debating Mrs Blood's request, consists of 20 doctors, philosophers and laymen. It is chaired by

Ruth Deech, principal of St Anne's College, Oxford, and her deputy is Lady Brittan, the wife of the European Commissioner Sir Leon.

Other members include the Bishop of Edinburgh, Richard Holloway, the actress Penelope Keith and the former BBC executive Liz Forgan.

Mrs Blood, 30, an advertising executive, said from her home in Worksop, Nottinghamshire: "They must have been digging around for reasons to refuse. Baroness Warnock says my situation wasn't considered when they were making the law about consent. I find it strange that someone should doubt her word."

"We are in Europe so it is not really relevant to say I have no connection with Belgium. England is to Europe what London is to Nottinghamshire."

Professor Ian Cooke, who agreed to store Mr Blood's sperm at a donor bank in Sheffield, when told there was a dying man whose wife wanted to have his child, said two samples were removed from Mr Blood: one 24 hours before his death and the other just before he died.

According to Professor Cooke, the HFEA has power

only over the storage of sperm, not its use. He reacted with disbelief to the ruling and described the reasons as specious and ridiculous.

Professor Cooke, professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at the Jessop Hospital for Women in Sheffield, said he made the snap decision to help Mrs Blood after being contacted by the city's Hallamshire Hospital last year.

"I had about five seconds to

make a decision, a slightly different time frame to the bodies that have been involved publicly."

"It seemed to me in the face of that uncertainty and the time of day that I had one opportunity to make a decision. If I made the wrong one I could never retrieve the situation."

"There is not a shred of compassion expressed by the HFEA. They have taken an

extraordinarily legalistic view of the whole process. The HFEA would be perfectly happy to give this now-single woman an unknown person's sperm simply on the basis that the person had signed a consent. The donor might be dead for all we know."

"If you are married to someone there must be an inference that you are prepared to have your children and that he is prepared for you to have his children."

The HFEA considered a letter from Stuart Horner, who chairs the BMA ethics committee. It said: "The essential issue is the quality of [Mr Blood's] consent. From the information which has been portrayed in the media there is no evidence that Mr Blood had clearly thought through the issue and the full implications of a child being created after his death."

Gay ad for police 'is the last straw'

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR police officer has attacked his force's decision to advertise for recruits in a newspaper for homosexuals.

Acting Detective Chief Inspector David Bullett of South Yorkshire Police, said he could not lift a pint at his local public house without facing the derision of the landlord. He has now written to a local newspaper criticising his force.

Mr Bullett said: "I went down to my local and the landlord could not stop laughing. I think the senior management of the force have misjudged the mood of the public and most police officers. I fear we are sending out the wrong message to recruits and the principles of policing are being left behind."

The advertisement in *Gay Times* shows PC Tom Goodhill tipping his hat and asking: "Fancy a chat with Tom?" Mr Goodhill, who is married with children, is a member of the force recruitment department.

Mr Bullett, in charge for

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Wickes
THE EXPERTS IN HOME IMPROVEMENT

Husband desperate for a child, says mother

By EMMA WILKINS

STEPHEN BLOOD was desperate to have a child with his wife Diane and would have made a wonderful father, his mother said yesterday.

Gill Blood, 54, said Stephen often discussed his desire for children with the rest of his family before his sudden death from bacterial meningitis last year.

Mrs Blood, who lives near her daughter-in-law told how her grandchildren, David, 10 and Kevin, 8, were thrilled whenever their uncle Stephen visited.

"Stephen was brilliant with the boys. The moment he walked in the door he would be down on the floor on his hands and knees playing games with them."

Mrs Blood and her husband Brian, 56, are dedicated supporters of Diane's campaign to have Stephen's baby.

"We are totally supportive of Diane and we know she is telling the truth about Stephen's wishes," Mrs Blood said. "I have known Diane since she was 16 and just started courting with Stephen and she is a truthful, honest and genuine person."

Mrs Blood, married for 34 years, says the chairman of the HFEA, Ruth Deech, would not have reached the same decision if the discussion had been about a member of her own family.



Diane Blood with her press officer Paul Plant. The HFEA was digging around for reasons to refuse, she said

of the whole process. The HFEA would be perfectly happy to give this now-single woman an unknown person's sperm simply on the basis that the person had signed a consent. From the information which has been portrayed in the media there is no evidence that Mr Blood had clearly thought through the issue and the full implications of a child being created after his death."

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Adverts take centre stage in Christmas video sales battle

By CAROL MIDGLEY AND DAMIAN WHITWORTH

IT HAS a cast of stars, familiar music and a lot of happy endings. The new video aimed at the Christmas market is already a commercial success many times over.

Titled *Ad Fab*, it is a golden-hits collection of television commercials, running for 72 minutes without any tiresome interruptions by actual programmes. The question is whether the British public actually wants it. Last night the executive producer had no doubt.

Judd Lander, whose production was made by Warner, said: "A lot of people enjoy adverts more than they enjoy the programmes these days. We thought we'd capitalise on that." The video boasts that for the first time viewers can "experience a compilation of advertising classics specially resurrected for the enjoyment of all advert addicts everywhere".

It faces competition of a sort from a host of videos released for the festive season and reflecting the never-ending quest for novelty. There is the usual diet of strictly stocking-filler films — *An Audience*



Ad Fab: epic scenes between programmes

with Bob Monkhouse, Jimmy Tarbuck's *Nightmare Holes of Golf* 2 and Noel Edmonds' *Golden Gotcha*.

Then there is *Fit to Bust*, a "celebration of the bra", an uplifting documentary on its history. HMV in Oxford Street said it had sold just one copy to date and wasn't expecting a Christmas rush. Those attract-

ed to the controversial new film *Crash* might enjoy the mindless violence on offer in *Jeremy Clarkson Unleashed on Cars*, which features the premier of BBC television's *Top Gear* hunting down the "worst vehicles in the world" and smashing them up. Clarkson is seen driving a Chieftain tank over a car, and throwing another through the air with a mechanical catapult. The video includes footage of pile-ups and cars being set on fire.

Mr Lander of *Ad Fab* was fairly confident of facing up to the opposition, with his advert selection ranging from PG Tips to Yellow Pages. He said: "We go right back to the first adverts in 1955 and include all the classics like Hovis, and Leonard Rossiter and Joan Collins on the Cirvano ad. There are a lot of modern ones too, such as Dudley Moore in his hunt for the Tesco chicken."

"It is a really enjoyable video, which doesn't seem to last anything like 72 minutes. It is narrated by the Radio 1 disc jockey John Peel, who is a self-confessed advert junkie."

Dominic Mills, editorial director of the advertising industry's trade magazine *Campaign*, added: "Advertising is part of popular culture now and you will probably find a lot of people will be interested. The only example of this being done before was with the Hamlet cigar ads which, I think, were the best ever made."

For an even more specialist market, another video, *Sex Sells*, is a collection of the world's so-called sexiest adverts, hosted by Mariella Frostrup. It features commercials for Häagen-Dazs ice cream, nylon tights and a French Perrier water advert.

Christmas wrapped up, Weekend

A TEST FOR COMMERCIAL JUNKIES

1. What was the first advert to appear on British television?

A: Gibbs SR Toothpaste in September 22 1955.

2. What famous TV animal provided the most popular pet name?

A: Arthur the cat. Even after its death in 1977, at the age of 14, Arthur remained the most popular name for a white kitten.

3. What advert made legal history?

A: *The Guardian* television advert *Points of View* featuring a skinhead rescuing a businessman from a falling pallet of bricks. It was used by the defence in a court case.

4. Which book was inspired by a TV commercial?

A: *Fly Fishing* by JR Hartley, from a Yellow Pages commercial. The advert featured Norman Lumsden, who was a professional opera singer before becoming an actor.

5. What is the longest-running advertising campaign on British television? A: PG Tips.

Couple jailed for £10m plot against Bank of England

By STEPHEN FARRELL

A COUPLE who tried to cash a £9.75 million cheque stolen from the Bank of England were jailed for three and a half years yesterday after a judge described them as greedy but incompetent fraudsters.

Peter Garnett, 54, a former publican, and his wife Linda, 52, were caught when he tried to bank the cheque at the same time as £350 housing benefit. The pair claimed they were given the cheque by a myster-

ious Armenian businessman to buy property in Tenerife, but were found guilty of conspiracy to defraud after a week-long forged."

Linda Garnett, an accountant, was also sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment for stealing £73,000 from the Leicestershire veterinary practice where she worked. She will serve five years.

The court was told that the couple's properties had been repossessed, and they were now penniless and lived in a council flat in Southwark, southeast London. Garnett suffered a stroke in June.

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A museum for little dahlings

Felicity Dahl, the widow of children's author Roald Dahl, stands in the entrance to the giant peach from one of her husband's tales at a new museum based on his works. The huge fruit from the book *James and the Giant Peach*, complete with characters from the illustrations by Quentin Blake, is one of the attractions for youngsters at the Buckinghamshire County Museum in Aylesbury, near the home in Great Missenden where Dahl wrote books such as *Charlie and the Chocolate*

Factory, *The Big Friendly Giant* and *The Witches*. The museum, which cost £50,000 to build and will be opened today by Blue Peter presenter Katy Hill, is housed in an 18th-century coach house with an extension complete with a Great Glass Elevator from another of his

Law Society 'lost control of database project'

By FRANCIS GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

AN AMBITIOUS project to create a national solicitors' database was allowed to spiral out of control and will now cost nearly £10 million compared with an original budget of £2.5 million, according to a report yesterday.

The report into the handling of the Law Society's computer project — Regis — has been drawn up by a sub-committee set up by the society after consultants DBI Associates and Arthur Andersen earlier this year revealed "a series of failures". It criticises the society for not properly costing the project or setting an overall budget; for allocating funds piecemeal; for not appointing any one person to have overall responsibility; and then for a "lack of frankness" over what was happening when the project finally reached "crisis point".

The Regis computer project was launched in 1991 to bring on to one database all information about every solicitor. By last autumn it became clear it was failing to work properly and was struggling to comply with the Law Society's core task of issuing the profession's 69,000 practising certificates.

Robert Sayer, a member of the sub-committee studying the handling of the project, said Regis was only the most public and obvious example of "financial incompetence": "Refurbishing the Law Society cost an extra £1.74 million."

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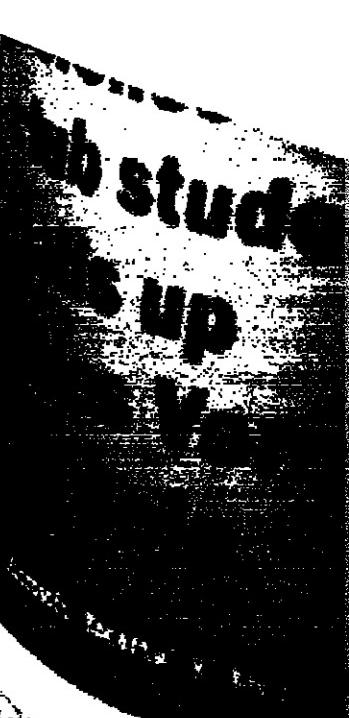
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Eurotun
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purchase
open wage

Eurotunnel fails to halt purchase of open wagons

BY JONATHAN PRYNN AND JOANNA BALE

EUROTUNNEL is pressing ahead with a £14 million order for new Channel Tunnel freight wagons with even less fire protection than the lattice-sided train that was wrecked on Monday night.

The 72 new wagons on order will have just four thin steel strips on each side to support the roof. The freight wagons in use now have a grille of girders on either side to protect the lorries on board, but safety experts say that they should be fully enclosed to prevent fire spreading.

The new generation of lighter wagons will allow Eurotunnel to shave precious minutes off the 35-minute crossing time, according to rail experts. "They will be able to haul along at close to their maximum speed of 86-90mph all the way out of the tunnel on the 1 in 90 uphill pull," Barrie Hughes of Rail Express magazine said.

A Eurotunnel spokeswoman

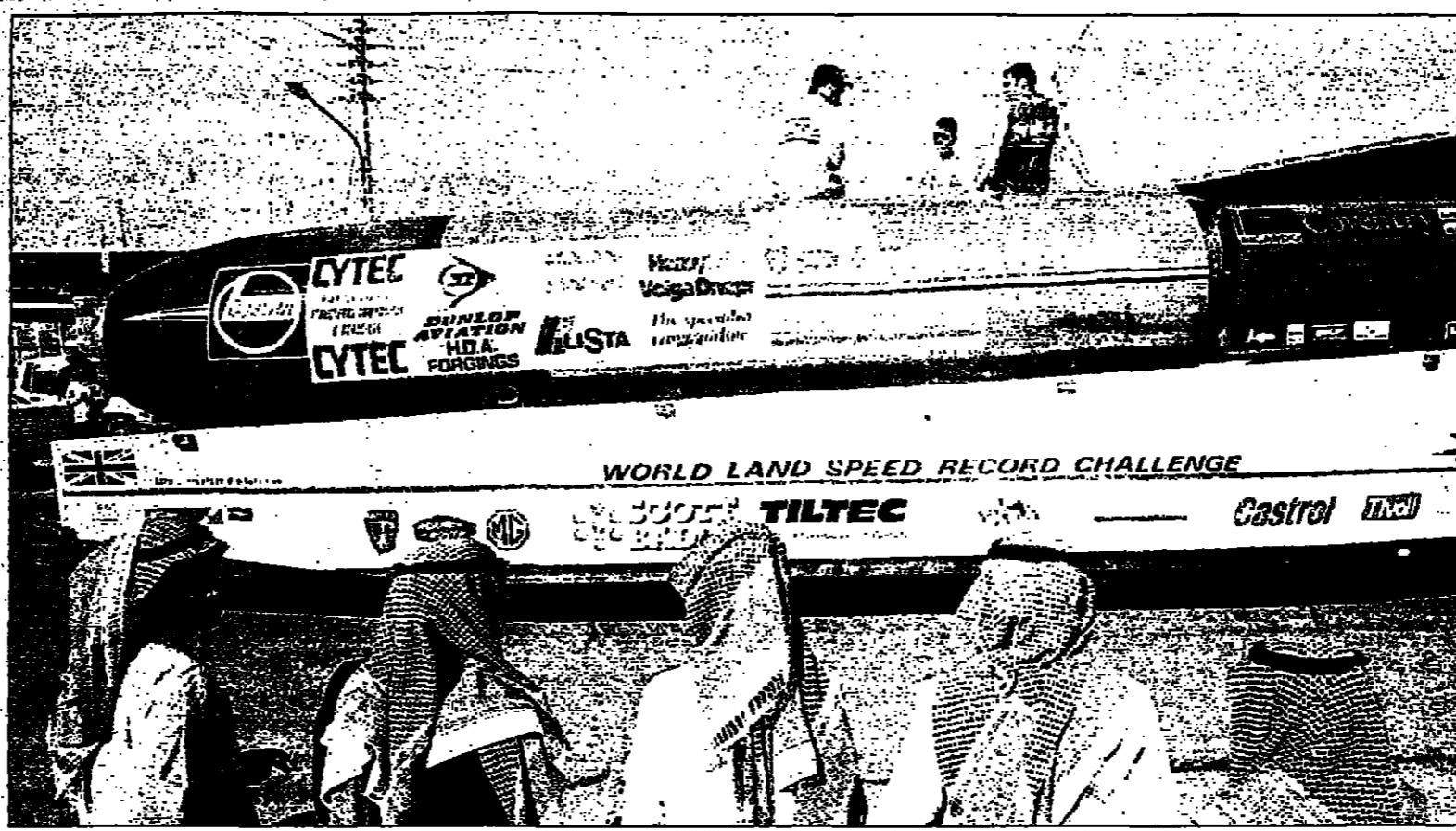
Oil firms fined over refinery explosion

TEXACO and Gulf were each fined £100,000 yesterday after a huge explosion and fires at a refinery in Pembrokeshire, west Wales, which injured 26 workers.

The companies, which run the refinery in partnership, were sentenced at Swansea Crown Court, where they admitted breaches of Health and Safety regulations arising from the blast in July 1994.

The court was told that the explosion, which could be felt three miles away, was caused by technical faults and the failure of control systems to shut down the process after alarm signals went up. Texaco and Gulf admitted two charges each of failing to ensure the responsible safety of their employees, contractors and the public. The companies were also ordered to share payment of £143,700 prosecution costs.

The companies paid out some £180,000 compensation for damage to public property. The court was told that a £2 million monitoring system had since been installed.



Danger, uneven road ahead: Jordanians watch the jet-powered Thrust as it passes through a desert village on the way to its 12-mile track

Speed record stalls after challenge from camel

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING EDITOR

A BRITISH attempt to break the world land-speed record is stalled in the Al Jafr desert in Jordan, after weeks of problems ranging from mechanical breakdowns to torrential rain and an obstructive camel.

In nearly a month, the Thrust SSC car has reached a top speed of 330mph, which is 303mph short of the current record set in 1983 by the team leader, Richard Noble. Spare parts

for repairs are being airlifted out. Problems with the car have been matched by the difficulties of coping with the bleak surroundings.

Volunteers from the Royal Jordanian Air Force have helped with the back-breaking task of picking up stones and pebbles from the desert surface, covering up to 12 miles at a time, so that the sand is perfectly flat.

Heavy rainstorms have threatened to obliterate the high-speed track. Then, as the weather cleared on Thursday,

a camel wandered onto the track near to the start line.

Ron Ayers, Thrust's designer, asked the handler to move it, but was refused without the payment of cigarettes. Mr Ayers is a non-smoker. The handler led the camel out in the centre of the track and tied up its legs so it could not move until payment was forthcoming. Only the intervention of police solved the problem.

Andy Green, the RAF pilot driving Thrust, then reached 304mph before

he shut down the engines and deployed the three brake parachutes after finding he was unable to steer. Mechanics discovered that the weight on the steering rear wheels was so great that it was deforming the suspension pins, forcing the car to pull heavily to the left.

Another run will not take place until some time next week and even then it is unlikely an attempt on the record will be made until Mr Noble is certain the car is handling safely.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

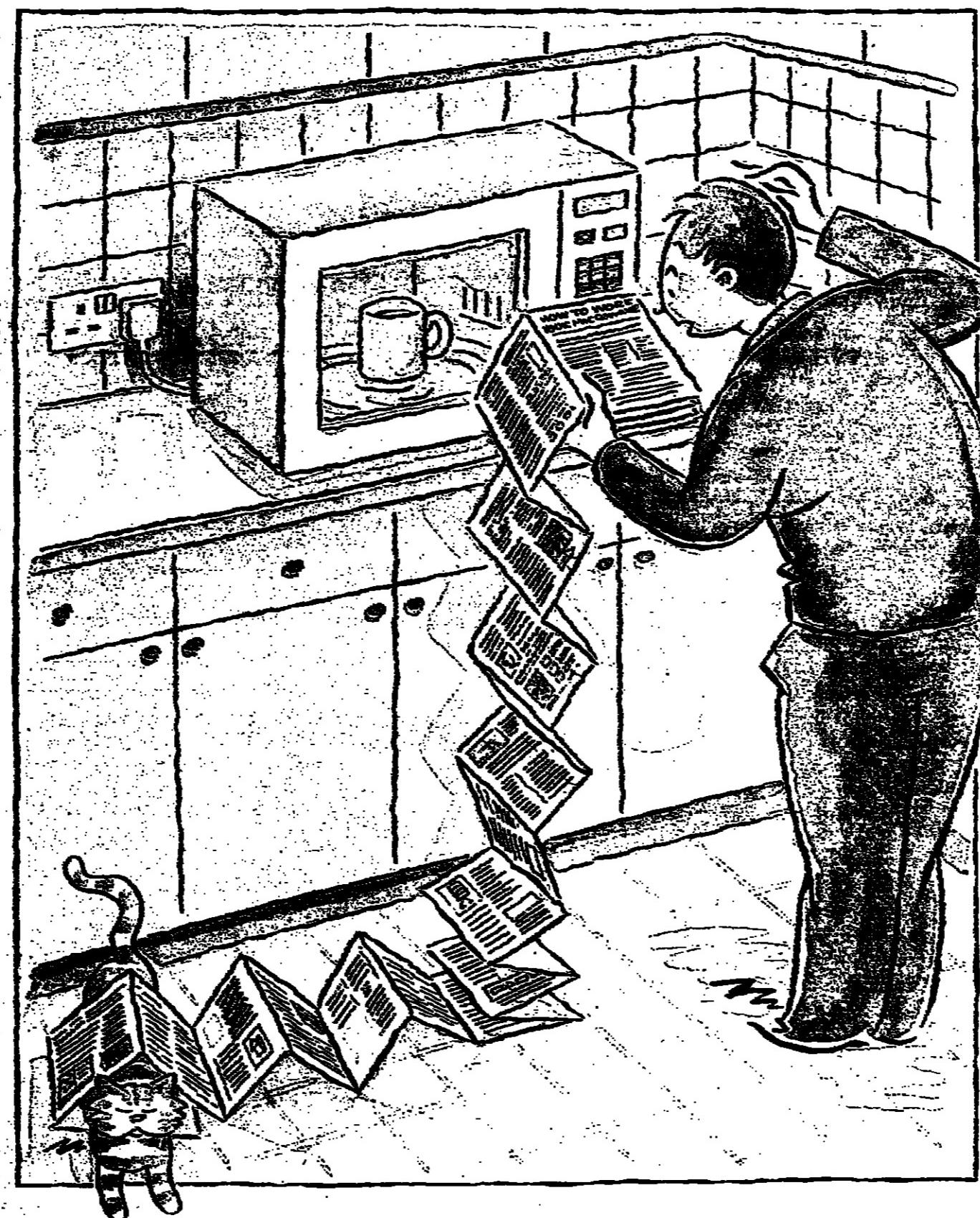
KING CON



Armand Hammer was America's Robert Maxwell. He wooed the rich, the royal and the powerful, plundered other people's wealth and successfully portrayed himself as a philanthropist and peacebroker. Six years after his death, Hammer's hidden life

has at last been cracked open, due to access to Soviet and FBI archives and the bitter memories of those he duped... Discover his secrets, in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

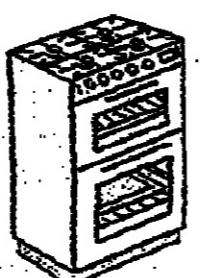


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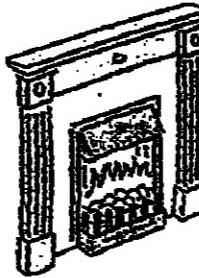
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Faust manuscript puts high price on Schumann's soul

BY DALYA ALBERG
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

SCHUMANN'S 122-page working manuscript for *Scenes from Goethe's Faust* has emerged from a private collection for the first time since 1910 and is expected to fetch about £800,000 at auction.

The manuscript is to be offered on December 6 by Sotheby's, the first time scholars will have seen it since it went into private hands. It offers an extensive insight into the composing process but is yet to be subjected to modern scholarship.

One section bears Schumann's transcription from Goethe's printed text which he annotated; a series of aide-mémoires indicates, for example, which passages should be performed by soloists and which should go to the chorus. Among revisions, sketches and multiple versions of certain sections are two completely different settings of the *Chorus Mysticus*.

Simon Maguire, Sotheby's musical manuscripts expert, said the document represented "the moment of the conception of the piece". He added: "It demonstrates his many facets — Schumann the lieder composer, incomparable in his sensitivity to the greatest German poetry; Schumann the symphonist, the pioneer in the musical expression of Roman-



Schumann: worked on the score for ten years

tic thought; Schumann the most literary of all composers, now confronting the task of elucidating with music the most important German text of his century."

He noted that the manuscript of Schumann's Second Symphony sold a few years ago for £1.5 million. That, however, was the final version for the printer, rather than the composing draft. "In this, he makes all the decisions about setting Goethe's text."

The handwriting in brown ink and pencil is hard to decipher and the manuscript is covered in crossings-out and

alterations in red and blue crayon. Schumann began his setting of *Faust* in 1844 and it was to occupy him for nearly ten years. Schumann completed it in 1853, shortly before his decline into madness. It was premiered in its entirety only in 1862, after his death; it was largely neglected until championed by Benjamin Britten, among others.

Margit L. McCorkle, a Schumann scholar who is preparing the catalogue raisonné, said: "This is an extremely important manuscript. It is a very complete set of the sketches in a number of different versions, which is unusual for Schumann, as he didn't normally work so long on a composition. This shows him working at various styles, in some respects in different styles, as they changed over a period of time. That alone makes it valuable."

Mr Maguire said: "Goethe believed in a synthesis of Romantic and Classical styles in art and Schumann addressed this concern in the *Scenes* with his use of Romantic harmony and expressive music."

On November 27, Christie's is selling Mahler's copy of Beethoven's Third Symphony. Mahler's annotations cover the score; his extensive revisions include his supposed improvements to Beethoven's orchestral parts. It is estimated at about £28,000.



Schumann's manuscript shows "all the decisions about setting Goethe's text"

Crude

Journey to true Christian faith must follow a shared path

Michael Nazir-Ali

WE ARE certainly more than the sum of our parts. We are more than the ideas and values that we imbibe from the culture around us. We are more even than the relationships that make up so much of our personal identity. There is an experienced reality that relates us to all of these aspects of our existence and yet which transcends them all. The paradox is that the "I" is illuminated in the very relationships with the external world to which it cannot be reduced. Without these it remains a vague substratum, without content and form.

Against such a view, it is important to emphasise what Bishop Kenneth Cragg has called the "mutual accountability" of religions. In terms of the claims they make and the effects of such claims on their followers, religions are accountable to one another and at the bar of public opinion. In such matters, neutrality is never possible but people from one tradition should study the texts and teachings of another.

The last great vision in the Bible is that of the heavenly city coming down from God. It is a vision of community, of belonging both to God and to one another. The Church can never be content with merely individual religion, for it knows that, sooner or later, such a religion will cease to be Christian. Christian faith

certainly has an intensely personal aspect but it can be nurtured and sustained only in the fellowship of the Church down the ages and throughout the world. This should not, however, lead to a neglect of those who question the tradition. It may be that out of such questioning, authentic renewal will come. The coming of the heavenly city is an act of God who "makes all things new". It is not a vindication of any one tradition, though everything that is true and good and beautiful is affirmed in it.

The Right Rev Michael Nazir-Ali is Bishop of Rochester

At your Service Weekend, page 14

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'Ridiculous' film frames Picasso, says art expert

A NEW film about Picasso has been accused of demonising him for his treatment of his mistress in an attempt to attract feminists at the box office.

John Richardson, one of the world's leading authorities on the painter, says *Surviving Picasso*, the Merchant Ivory movie about the artist with Sir Anthony Hopkins in the lead role is a "very dull" film about a "very great man".

Mr Richardson, a former Slade Professor of Art at Oxford, was a long-standing friend of the artist, who died in 1973. He criticised the film, which opens in Britain on December 26, for trying to demonise the artist for his supposedly manipulative and sadistic treatment of Francoise Gilot, his mistress from 1943 to 1953, and thus attract a feminist audience.

He explained that Gilot was portrayed as a victim. In fact, Francoise was the least submissive, least neurotic and least vulnerable of the women in the artist's life.

Writing in *The New York Review of Books*, Mr Richardson said Ruth Prawer Jhabvala's script was "simple, soap operaish" and said that Hopkins looks as much like Henry Moore as Picasso. "Nor has Hopkins's wish to have 'got the rhythm of the man' been fulfilled."

"Instead of coming across as the most Spanish of Spaniards he looks very English and sounds faintly Welsh; a sardonic, skittish don whose teasing of girls gets a bit out of hand. There are occasional

echoes of Hannibal Lecter, but they hardly suggest the 'magnetic appeal' that Merchant hoped to capture."

All Hopkins can muster of the magnetism for which Picasso was famous "is an arch twinkle or a sinister gaze", says Mr Richardson. The film is based on Arianna Re-

Stassinopoulos's biography *Creator and Destroyer* which Richardson says, was dismissed by some scholars. "Merchant Ivory had originally approached Gilot in the hope of obtaining film rights; they were met with an adamant refusal and so had no option but to sign up Stassinopoulos and pretend that their film is based on her book."

"Why they have singled out Picasso as the quintessence of male chauvinist piggyery I have never been able to fathom. His conduct pales if we compare it to Matisse's failure to come to the assistance of his wife and daughter when the Gestapo arrested them in 1944."

Richardson, who has just published the second volume of his four-volume biography of Picasso, said that Gilot and Picasso's son Claude were "horror-stricken" by the film, and took steps to stop it being made. *Surviving Picasso* not only fails to entertain, it puts the artist and his work at considerable risk by playing into the hands of modern-art haters."

Richardson is not alone in his attack. When the film opened in America, one reviewer observed: "It is hard to believe that the same people who created such fine films as *A Room with a View*, *Howards End* and *The Re-*

mains of the Day could eject a catastrophe like *Surviving Picasso*."

Another called it "phenomenally tedious, allowing critics to retrieve the cliché of watching paint dry". Michael Fitzgerald, a Picasso scholar and professor of art history at Trinity College in Hartford

said: "If you do not agree to such an investigation, we will assume that you believe there is something to hide over the sources of Tory party funding."

The letter was signed by Tony Blair, Paddy Ashdown, Liberal Democrat leader; David Trimble, Ulster Unionists; Alex Salmond, Scottish National Party; John Hume, Social Democratic and Labour Party; Dafydd Wigley, Plaid Cymru; and Ian Paisley, Democratic Unionist Party.

Mr Blair reacted to Mr Major's allegations about a "secret fund" to finance the Labour leader's private office by announcing that Alec Reed, chairman of Reed Executive, the employment agency, had given Labour £100,000. Greg Dyke, chief executive of Pearson Television, and Lord Hollick, chief executive of United News and Media, were also named as giving between £25,000 and £50,000.

now welcome an independent inquiry to reassure you about the sources of all party funding". Mr Major has made clear that he does not consider that party funding should be investigated by the Nolan Commission, although Lord Nolan has indicated that there could be an investigation after the general election.

The demands — which are as Labour announced details of the latest donations given by businesses, swelling to £6 million the amount it as received in individual donations — were made in a letter to the Prime Minister, on comments by Brian Lawhorne, the Tory party chairman, in which he called a "greater openness" when testing Labour party funding.

The letter welcomed "Dr Lawhorne's change of heart

and assure that you would

be challenged Mr

was like a bumbling, selfish old man.

"The important thing about Picasso is the art he created and not simply his romances. In this film, there was no process of making art. The application of the brush strokes was as if it was done by computer. When we saw

that, we were screaming with laughter and sadness."

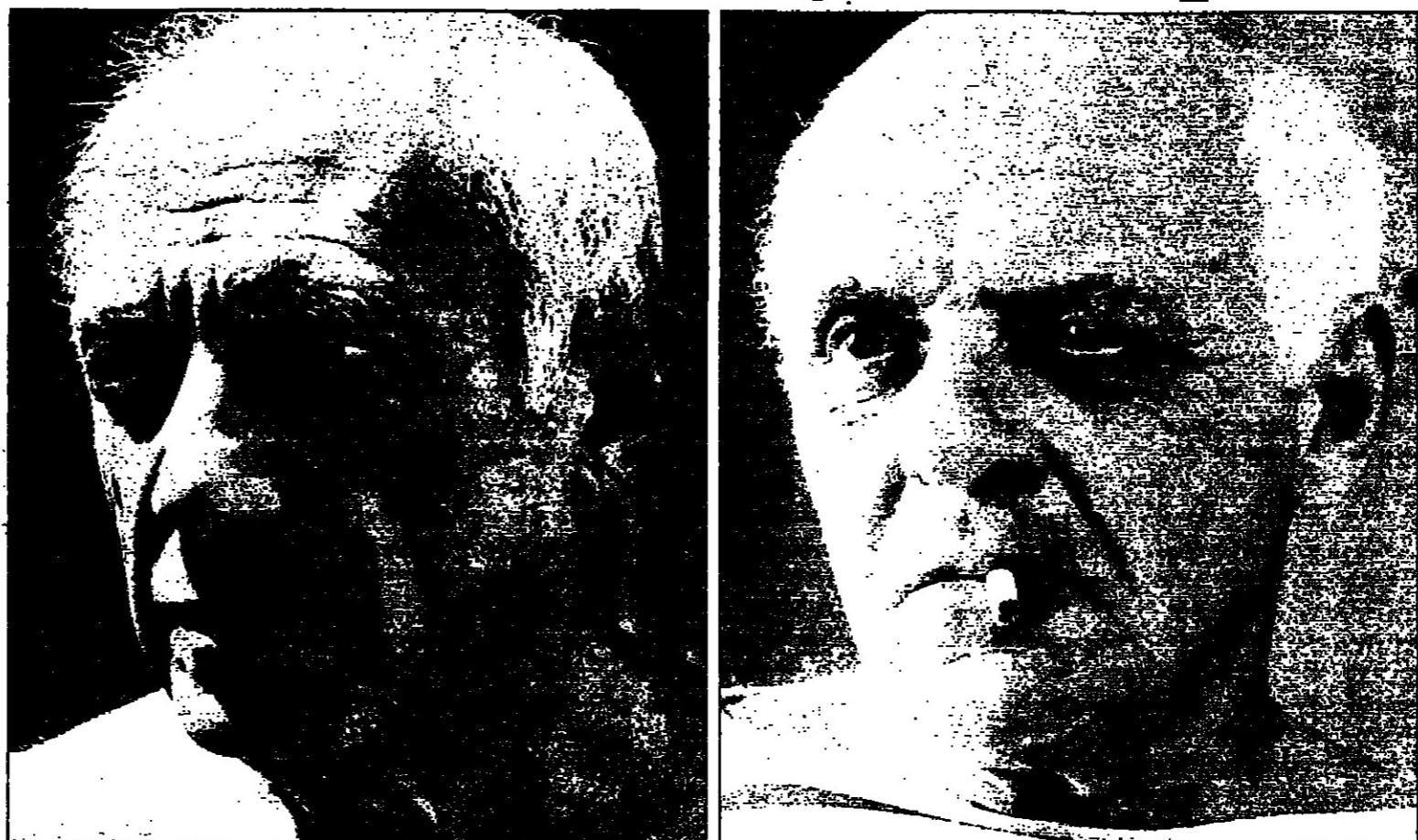
One Picasso scholar, who insisted on anonymity, said: "Arianna's book is something my students might have pieced together." Nobody from Merchant Ivory was prepared to comment.

Marilyn McCully, a former

lecturer at Princeton University and Richardson's collaborating author, said:

"Arianna's book is something my students might have pieced together." Nobody from Merchant Ivory was prepared to comment.

Arts, pages 22, 23



Picasso was the most Spanish of Spaniards, says John Richardson, and not the sardonic, skittish don played by Sir Anthony Hopkins

Opposition leaders urge inquiry into party funds

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

OPINION LEADER faced demands from the leaders of the seven opposition parties yesterday to allow political funding to be investigated by the Nolan Commission. The leaders voiced "serious doubts" about the sources of almost £10 million, they claim, the Conservative Party has raised this year and called for full inquiry before the general election.

The demands — which are as Labour announced details of the latest donations given by businesses, swelling to £6 million the amount it as received in individual donations — were made in a letter to the Prime Minister, on comments by Brian Lawhorne, the Tory party chairman, in which he called a "greater openness" when testing Labour party funding.

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A change is as good as... the person making it

Le's get the slogans out of the way first. Adapt or die. The only certainty is uncertainty. If it was right for you five years ago, it's probably wrong now. Join the Webmasters, and you'll never need to leave your house again.

The rhetoric of revolutionary change is relentless, especially at work. But what about the reality? How much has actually changed over the last 20 years? Of course the pace of office life has hurried up. The pressure on businesses to be competitive means that most people with jobs are now working harder as well as smarter than they used to. We tend to be better informed and better managed, too, although our facility to forget how things were may make us reluctant to admit this.

Computers have paved the way for the mechanical aspects of business and information transmission to an extent unimaginable two decades ago. Coupled with growing globalisation, these changes have consigned the old command and control management style to hist-

ory. People at the top of companies no longer have the time or up-to-date specialist knowledge to add value to all important decisions. Hence the empowerment boom, and the great upsurge of interest in leadership programmes, effective internal communications and so on. Hence, too, the tendency for good teamplayers rather than sycophants to acquire top jobs. This trend is confirmed by the results of a recent survey of 300 blue-chip companies, who rate the ability to inspire trust and motivate as the quality most necessary in tomorrow's leaders.

I recently had the opportunity to debate all this with an audience of finance directors: not people who look kindly on flavour-of-the-month fads, and a marked contrast to those I spend most of my working life with — newly appointed chief executives with a brief to shake things up, professional change agents, even the occasional poor soul helplessly addicted to continuous improvement. I ought perhaps to explain

that I am a change consultant, albeit an unusual one. A psychologist by disposition as well as training. I have little confidence in the durability of organisational change based entirely on revamped systems. Tinkering with organisational structures is fun, but it's associated in my mind with images of deckchair assistants on the *Titanic*. I take it as axiomatic that no one will ever invent a working procedure which can't be frustrated by an operator who doesn't understand its purpose, and I find it much easier to persuade people to abandon old

Them and Us mindsets if employees are regarded as the engine of profit rather than a fixed cost.

Ten years ago this view of organisational life would have received a dusty reception from finance people. But times move on, as witnessed by their invitation to me to lead the discussion. My brief was to provide an overview, based on two decades of experience in helping companies to change themselves. More spe-

EXECUTIVE VOICE



John
Nicholson

cifically, I was to present a set of verifiable propositions which my hosts could use to unravel the conundrum that lies at the heart of all debate about organisational change.

It goes as follows. No one now denies that companies must regularly realign themselves to remain in kilter with the environment in which they operate. As it changes, so must they. Adherence to this

the principle on which all organisational change rests, was far from universal 20 years ago. The fact that it has become an unquestioned business imperative is largely due to the even-handed but unsentimental way in which recessions treat dinosaurs and ostriches. After a quarter of a century of trial and error experimentation, we also now know how to bring about real and lasting change in organisations. Unfortunately, these two important advances in understanding must be set against the fact that the majority of large-scale attempts to change the way companies operate are unsuccessful — in the eyes of those who plan and pay for them.

This is not to say that they fail entirely. Sometimes the will to change in an organisation is strong enough to overcome the unrealistic aspirations of its leaders and even substantial technical flaws. A two-year stint at the Cabinet Office as special adviser on the management of change

gave me a chance to study many of the most ambitious programmes then underway, and to work out why some fail, while others achieve their objectives. Taking the 20-year perspective, it's also possible to discern some really significant shifts, both in the way in which organisations face up to the challenge of changing themselves and in attitudes towards

change. terms even with "downsizing", provided that those asked to leave are demonstrably contributing least, and that they're treated in a way which doesn't offend those who stay on.

Which brings us to the final twist in the story. During the last recession, change became synonymous with job-cutting. Maintaining production and service levels for less cost is the traditional way to remain competitive, at least in the short term, when times are hard. To manage growth, however, you need a very different approach. Instead of reducing staff numbers, you aim to adjust working patterns and practices so as to increase every individual's contribution to profit. This enables you to react quickly to opportunities while preserving the corporate pool of knowledge and goodwill. So not everything it seems is changing for the worse.

□ Dr John Nicholson is chairman of Nicholson McBride, the business psychology consultancy

Hyder 25% higher as bid pays off

BY OLIVER AUGUST

HYDER, the multi-utility group, has lifted interim profits by 25 per cent and expects a further increase for the full year as electricity consumption surges during winter.

The former Welsh Water, which changed its name to Hyder after acquiring its neighbouring power company, Swalec, in January, said that the takeover had been a "demonstrable success".

Pre-tax profits rose from £80 million to £100 million in the six months to September 30. Earnings per share, however, increased marginally, from 57.4p to 57.7p. The interim dividend rises from 12.6p to 14.6p.

Iain Evans, Hyder chairman, said: "We are confident that [Swalec] should be materially earnings-enhancing on a full-year basis, with costs falling, according to our pre-acquisition assessment."

The statement on Swalec's earnings-enhancement potential was welcomed by analysts. The shares closed up 10.5p, at 752.5p.

Mr Evans said that synergies between the two utilities were being achieved ahead of schedule.

Since the takeover, 275 jobs have gone. A further 625 are expected to go by March 1999.

Hyder's consumer electricity bills have fallen by 11 per

cent and water customers have been given a 59 annual rebate for four years.

Capital spending in the six months was £125 million, up from £85 million in the corresponding period last year. Pre-tax profits from unregulated businesses rose to £13 million, from £3 million.

Hyder is a 40 per cent partner in consortiums with contractors to build the Lewisham extension of London's Docklands Light Railway and to widen the M40 between Oxford and High Wycombe. Both projects receive government funds through the Private Finance Initiative.

Earlier this month, Hyder said that it had scrapped a computer investment designed to provide a system enabling it to compete for electricity customers in 1998 when full competition begins. Instead, the company will develop the computer system it inherited from Welsh Water.

Mr Evans said: "We are confident that, by extending our existing system, we will be able to meet all our regulatory and legal requirements arising from the deregulation of the electricity market in 1998 at a more effective and economic cost."

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Sales slump hits shares in Fine Art

BY KEITH RODGERS

SHARES of Fine Art Developments, the mail order and greeting cards group, plummeted yesterday as the company gave warning that annual profits will be substantially below expectations.

The drop prompted analysis to suggest that the company could attract a takeover bid, possibly from N Brown, the mail order company.

Fine Art said that agency mail order sales had fallen 11 per cent in the 33 weeks to November 15. The shares fell from 43.5p to 26.2p, knocking more than £140 million off its market value. Brokers downgraded their full-year forecasts from about £46 million to £30-£32 million.

The blame for the £7.5 million drop in mail order sales was attributed to a poor early-season marketing campaign. Last year the 33-week period accounted for 75 per cent of sales. However, the company said that its direct retail and stationery activities were performing well.

GWR may sell Dutch loss-maker

BY ERIC RECOLY

GWR, the radio group paying £71.5 million to take full control of Classic FM, has said that it will continue expanding overseas but may sell the loss-making Classic FM stations in The Netherlands and Sweden.

The Dutch station is GWR's worst performer, and the company will decide soon whether to sell it or bring in a partner to help to boost its marketing.

Ralph Bernard, GWR chief executive, said: "One way or the other, it won't be losing money for us next year." GWR, he said, will also sell a couple of small British stations to meet rules limiting market share.

Acquisitions and strong advertising sales helped to lift GWR pre-tax profits by 55 per cent, to £8.2 million, in the year to September 30, on turnover of £52.2 million, up 63 per cent. Earnings per share were 7p, up 11 per cent. A 1.5p second interim dividend, due on December 12, makes the total dividend 2.6p, up a fifth.

Tempus, page 32

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TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buy	Bank Sell
Australia \$	2.17	2.17
Austria Sch	16.70	17.20
Belgium Fr	54.82	50.52
Canada \$	2.29	2.19
Cyprus Cyp	0.789	0.745
Denmark Kr	10.25	9.75
Finland Mark	8.18	7.53
France Fr	8.95	8.30
Germany Dm	2.01	2.46
Greece Dr	4.13	3.98
Hong Kong \$	13.63	12.82
Iceland Kr	120	100
Ireland £	1.05	0.97
Israel Shek	5.27	5.10
Italy Lira	2.625	2.475
Japan Yen	201.70	185.70
Korea Wons	2.574	0.580
Netherlands Gld	2.50	2.744
New Zealand \$	2.50	2.28
Norway Kr	11.16	10.36
Portugal Esc	20.50	24.07
S Africa Rand	8.45	10.89
Spain Pta	216.00	175.00
Sweden Kr	11.79	10.89
Switzerland Fr	2.20	2.08
Turkey Lira	175.00	167.00
USA \$	1.780	1.780

Notes are for small denomination bank notes as supplied by Barclays Bank.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

GROUNDED

McDonnell Douglas losing a string of vital aircraft orders suddenly raises doubts about its ability to survive as a civil or military contractor into the 21st century.

Business Focus — The Sunday Times tomorrow

A WORKING WEEK FOR: JOHN BROWNE

The oilman who came in from the cold

Carl Mortished meets an engineer whose career has led him from the frozen wastes of Alaska to the hot seat in BP's boardroom

Monday OILMEN should be larger than life, over-weight Texans or hard-boiled Scottish engineers. This is an industry that sends its people to the Arctic Circle or deep into African swamplands to sink millions of dollars into a well that might, in the end, just produce water and mud. John Browne hardly fits the bill. Sitting in his office suite in the City, the diminutive chief executive of BP has only one concession to the stereotype: a fat cigar. Otherwise, he is every bit the merchant banker: dark suit, stripy shirt, suave manner and ever so careful and considered in what he says.

Not surprising then, to learn that John Browne is well liked in the City. In fact, that is a gross understatement. For many, he is little less than a hero, feted for having rescued BP's floundering exploration business from imminent disaster in the early 1990s. As reward, he now finds himself running the entire shooting match and delivering record profits to his shareholders.

You will have to dig deep under stones to find anyone with a bad word to say about the 48-year-old Browne; immensely clever, hard-working and charming are words that crop up, unprompted. Yet it is also true that few words crop up at all. Browne is a bit of a mystery and even those who work close to him describe him as intensely private. His is a personality full of contradictions. But on the surface you learn little of what allowed him to succeed in shaking up the previously stuffy bureaucracy of Britain's second-largest oil company.

"He trained as an engineer but he thinks like a financier," remarks one analyst approvingly. Browne himself admits to enjoying moving from the minutiae of engineering to the big picture of the capital markets and then "drilling down to the detail" as he puts it. "I like to test myself and see whether I can step back far enough to see the very big picture and then test myself and see if I can learn on to the underpinnings of the business."

An ability to focus on details has terrified more than a few people at BP and elsewhere. In 1983, Browne scored a coup when he sold parcels of BP's Forties Field in an innovative tender offer packaging the tax losses so that investors could buy them, thus making a £200 million profit for BP. David Verrey, chairman of Lazard, the merchant bank, recalls the painstaking process of preparing the documentation for the disposal. "He was a complete polymath in his ability to deal with issues. One evening, I left him studying the engineering report. When I got back in the morning, he was still staring at it and he said 'they have got their maths wrong'. And so it turned out. Browne is a BP man through and through. He

joined up after his father counselled against an academic career in geophysics at Cambridge. "He thought I would have made an appalling academic and worried about maintaining me for the long term," he explains. The attraction of the oil industry goes back further. His father, too, was a BP man and Browne spent his childhood abroad. He recalls being fascinated by the oil workers he met as a boy in Iran, particularly Myron Kinley, who put out well fires. "He was an extraordinary man who had lost one arm and one eye and was putting out well fires. They were interesting and worldly people."

Leaving academia for BP in 1966 meant exchanging Cambridge for Alaska. Browne had been expecting the bright lights of New York but he also recalls losing £900 a year in scholarships — enough to allow a student the luxury of running a Fiat 600. In return, he found himself in penury in oil-boom Alaska on BP's then starting salary of £1,200. Nevertheless, he earned his stripes and learnt to test wells and bore wells and he eventually took part in the development of the Prudhoe Bay oilfield. Bob Norton took Browne away from exploration, offering him the job of group treasurer in 1984 and Browne says that he then learnt about shareholders and the ways of the City. Curiously, he talks more passionately about finance than the romance of drilling for oil. "It gave me a deeper appreciation of why companies exist. Financing is the ultimate thing that brings resources together, the opportunities, the people, the ideas, the creativity. It is all glued together by the flow of finance."

Beneath the academic analysis, the diligent executive who tries to be better briefed than the subordinate who briefs him. Browne is a more complicated and more passionate man. He is unmarried and lives with his mother, a Romanian linguist, in Belgravia. There have been girlfriends and he is evidently used to being probed on the subject. There are rumours about a great love that was not to be but friends and colleagues alike will not open the shutters that defend the chief executive's privacy.

Aside from finance, Browne will wax lyrical about opera. Jointly with his chairman, Sir David Simon, Browne supports the Royal Opera House. As a younger man he would happily sit through entire Ring cycles, but just as Browne metamorphosed from engineer to financier, he apparently abandoned Wagner for Puccini. For Browne, a great opera is as much a striving for perfection as a cathartic experience, and when he describes it, the process sounds not unlike the job of chief executive at BP.

"It brings so many things together and it is very tough to do. You have got to have a well-trained orchestra, a conductor who is sympathetic to the meaning of the music, a director who is sympathetic to the conductor, and singers able to both



John Browne switched from oilfield to treasurer's office in 1984 and now talks more passionately about finance than the romance of drilling for oil

sing and act. So when it all comes together it is fantastic. When you go to a great performance you come out thinking goodness, that has really been thought through." A colleague at BP has a dig at Browne on hearing this: "That sounds like an engineer's fascination. He has not touched on the emotional aspect of it, and he wouldn't."

If Browne keeps his feelings to himself, it is probably part of the reason he emerged unscathed and well-liked despite playing an important role in perhaps the most brutal upheaval in BP's history. Browne had been chief financial officer of Sohio when BP acquired the remaining shares in the US oil company. He then took over BP's US upstream business and in 1989 returned to the UK to run exploration and production worldwide under Bob Norton's chairmanship. BP's oil and gas business was loaded with debt, burdened with underperforming assets and overmanned. Browne had to implement a 50 per cent reduction in the staff of the upstream business and he admits it was the most difficult thing he has ever done. "We had to do it in a very public way, explaining what our strategy was without sufficient answers to fill in the details. It was very stressful because when people said 'What about me?', you had to say, 'Well, I am not sure yet.' Browne reckons he learnt on the job during the restructuring, correcting mistakes as he went along. In hindsight, he

might have done things differently. However, he is curiously unprepared for the obvious question: "What is my biggest mistake? It is always a good question." A silence, but he only recalls minor hiccups or embarrassments in his early career: being impatient and taking the initiative when it was wrong to do so or being inadequately briefed. Could there be no blemishes in the Browne copybook? His rise sounds effortless, from Alaskan North Slope to the Britannic House boardroom. The key to Browne is his loyalty to BP. It is indeed his family. He has a quiet sense of humour, which melts his studied gaze into a crinkly smile. But the smile turns quickly back to gaze if the conversation turns critical of BP. A sore point is the recent allegations, firmly denied, that the company was involved in

funding activities of the Colombian Army against an insurrectionist population. Browne says that the role of an oil company in developing countries is to seek a relationship of mutual advantage, where the oil company offers technology and the possibility of development and wealth creation. What they do with that must be "something they decide to do".

Browne is one of the few businessmen on the board of the British Museum. While in Colombia, he grew to be fascinated by Pre-Columbian art and has amassed a personal collection. To this, he applies the discipline of the lean and efficient oil industry manager, refusing to hoard but instead trading and improving his collection. Browne says he likes the ancient art for aesthetic, not academic reasons — "The shapes are extraordinary, some look like Picasso's". Yet he also adores and collects 18th century Italian prints.

For all his achievements in transform-

ing BP into a more modern oil company, Browne is himself a bit old-fashioned, a one-carrier man wedded to one organisation. He was recently paid a huge compliment when rival Shell invited him to speak at an internal management conference, but Browne believes BP has a unique culture.

The realpolitik of the oil business appeals to Browne. He has recently returned from China, where BP has made a big push to develop relationships with the Government and the state oil company; the results are now coming through in the form of a \$2.5 billion joint venture ethylene cracker plant near Shanghai.

Despite being so European in manner, he sees no problem in blending the BP culture, with that of Mobil, under the recent downstream joint venture with the US rival. Indeed, Browne reckons BP is almost a living thing. He muses: "It is a society as well as a company and corrects itself when it becomes uncivilised."

PROPERTY ASSETS

Croda's rich coating of credit for saving an estate of grace

Joanna Pitman on how a stately home was rescued after the pigs had flown

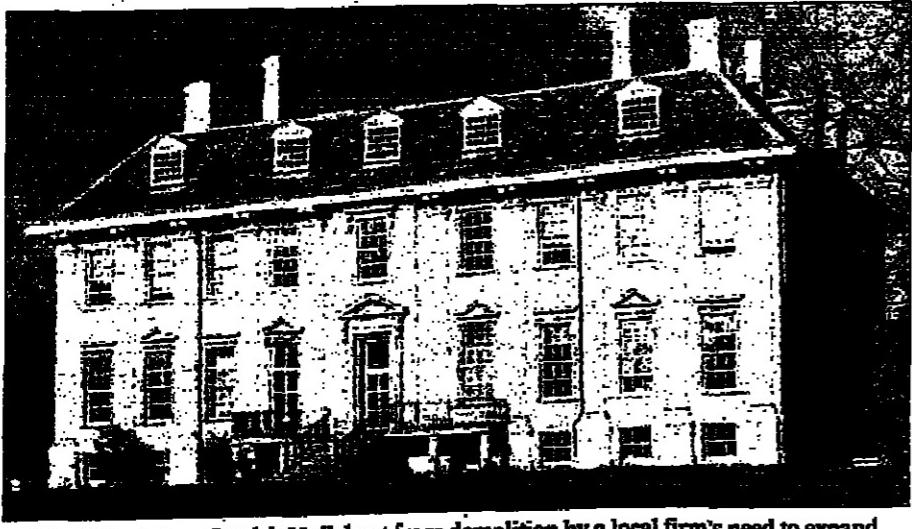
Downe could clearly afford a good architect and a team of good craftsmen. The house is similar in style to Etham Lodge in Kent, but the building it most resembles is the Mauritshuis in The Hague. Successive heads of the Dawny family lived at Cowick until 1869 when the property was bought by Henry Shaw, a wealthy merchant. On Shaw's death soon after the sale, the hall and estate were transferred to his brother, Benjamin, who made drastic alterations to the interior. For reasons unknown, much of the internal ornament and the overriding impressions of grandeur were removed, and parts of the estate were sold.

The hall and what was left of its estate languished un-

wanted until Samuel Joshua Cooper bought it towards the end of the century. The Coopers were the last owners to use the house as a stately home. When Joseph Cooper died in 1913, the house lay empty until the Second World War, when it became a billet for prisoners of war.

The military continued to occupy the building and estate until 1945, after which it came into the hands of Sam Waddington, a farmer who put every part of the building to use, including billeting some of his pigs in one of the distant wings. In 1954 Mr Waddington applied to have the hall removed from the list of buildings preserved for their historic or architectural interest so that he could demolish and rebuild.

A lease on Cowick Hall was taken out from Mr Waddington in 1953 and Croda received a £3,000 grant for external repairs from the Ministry of Works. Within ten years Croda had bought Cowick Hall outright. Today, in spite of having more than 3,000 employees, 48 holding and operating companies scattered around the world and a turnover of £450 million, Croda is virtually unknown outside its specialist market. But at least Cowick Hall has given it a local profile.



The 17th-century Cowick Hall, kept from demolition by a local firm's need to expand

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STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

Index pushed 64 points higher by big investors

INSTITUTIONAL investors embarked on a giant spending spree, convinced that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, would present a tight fiscal Budget on Tuesday. This drove the FT-SE 100 index to its biggest one day rise for more than five years, climbing back through the 4,000 level with a surge of 64.9 points to 4,018.7 as almost 900 million shares changed hands.

Yesterday's rise stretched the gain on the week to 60.5 points. The index dipped back below the 4,000 level last month after base rates were raised a quarter point to 6 per cent.

The FT-All Share Index, consisting of the top 850 companies, ended 0.2 per cent lower on the day at 1,945.10.

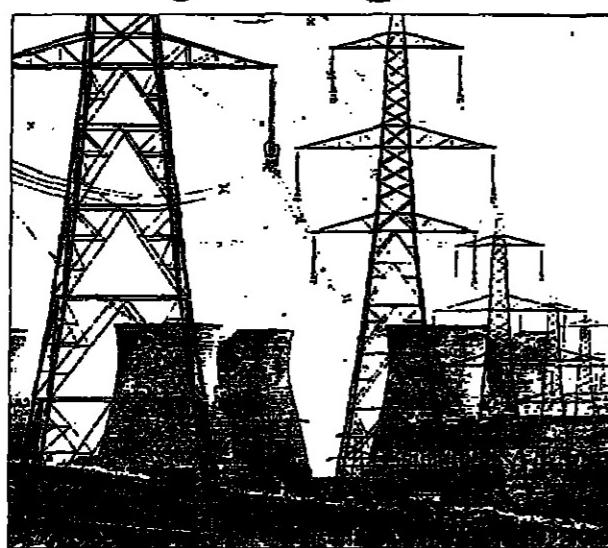
Brokers pointed to heavy turnover in shares of the large utilities for FT-SE 100 upturn. It seems fund managers have shrugged off their worries about a Labour Government imposing a windfall tax and, instead, have chosen to increase their weightings in the shares. Some brokers were casting doubt on the legality of such a tax being imposed. Others pointed out that Labour first had to win the general election.

Short covering by traders wishing to close positions before Tuesday's speech also fuelled yesterday's rise together with stock shortages and heavy turnover on the futures market.

One leading broker said: "The Chancellor has about £3 billion to give away. Anything less than that would boost the gilt market and that would feed through to equities."

Leading the utilities higher was again Railtrack, after interim figures earlier this week and a clutch of buy recommendations from brokers. The price jumped 20p to a new high of 34p on turnover of more than 10 million shares. This compares with the 190p at which they were floated off in the summer.

After interim figures on Thursday, British Energy was another firm market, up 15p to 150p, with more than 18 million shares traded. Elsewhere in the electricity sector, London rose 6p to 669.5p, National Power 19p to 471p, PowerGen 11p to 599.5p, Scottish Hydro 7p to 315p, and Yorkshire 12p to 71p. Southern Electric rose 3p to 700p before figures due next week, as did National Grid.



A good trading day sparked rises in the power sector

ending 7.5p better at 194.5p. Amongst smaller water companies, Anglian Water rose 10p to 553.5p, Severn Trent, reporting next week, rose 16p to 672.5p, Thames Water 5p to 579.5p and United Utilities 7.5p to 607.5p ahead of interim figures also next week. Other privatised shares to go better included British Gas, 9.5p to 231.5p and BT 11p to 368.5p.

The shares firmed 2.5p to 179p.

A profits warning from Fine Art Developments left the shares nursing a fall of 17.5p at 262.5p. Retail analyst Nick Bubb at MeesPierson has slashed his pre-tax profit forecast for the current year from £47 million to £32 million.

Home Counties News ended the week on a flat note with a fall of 21p at 240p also after issuing a profits warning. The group expects pre-tax drop from £1.7 million to £800,000 and blames a price war in one of its main areas.

Shares of Osborne & Little, the furnishings retailer, ended their recent strong run with a 9.5p fall to 842.5p.

Shares in AIM-listed Russhire Wynn were suspended at 2p pending an announcement. Earlier this week the group said it was expecting a loss in the 10 months to September following the disposal of HS Printers.

A joint venture between Cowie, the bus operator, and the management of Thame-link Rail has been shortlisted for the franchise of that part of the railway network. Cowie responded with a rise of 6.5p to 368p.

Moran Holdings, the plantations group, held steady at 41.5p after pegging the dividend at 0.5p, having seen a drop in pre-tax profits last year from £622,000 to £306,000.

Jarvis closed just a shade below its peak of 135p, with a rise of 1.5p to 134.5p. There has been no looking back for the group since it bought British Rail's Northern Infrastructure Maintenance division, the price having risen from just 20p. Whispers of a bid for Jarvis are doing the rounds.

Speculative buying was good for Imperial Group, up 7.5p to 368.5p. Merrill Lynch, the broker, is telling the clients that the shares should be bought up to the 410p level. Bid talk was also good for EMI, up 25p to 133.5p, and Enterprise Oil, 30.5p better at 579p. Bar oil shares were firm generally, with BP 18.5p stronger at 646.5p, and Shell 11p at 98p.

News of a bid approach from an unidentified suitor lifted Berisford, the kitchen furniture and Magnet joinery group, 30.5p to 151.5p. Top of the list of likely suitors is Wassall, the fast growing industrial conglomerate, and Electrolux. Berisford out-bid Electrolux last year for control of Webilt. Brokers said they were looking for a bid of anywhere between 50p and 200p a share for Berisford.

Haynes Pub recovered an early fall to close all square at 25.37 before figures due next month. Brokers say the figures should impress and are hoping for some bullish news accompanying the figures.

GILT EDGED: The London bond market continued to extend the week's gains. The strength of sterling continued to underpin the market, with investors also hoping for a tight fiscal Budget on Tuesday. Prices ticked better throughout the morning in reasonable volume. The December series of the Long Gilt was seven ticks better at 101.025, while a total of 51,000 contracts were completed. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 rose 13.5p to 101.325. At the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was 6.75p better at 101.325.

NEW YORK: US shares were higher at midday, with the Dow Jones industrial average showing a rise of 27.20 points to 6,445.68.

Wassall slipped 2p to 284.5p. Half-year profits in line with expectations from Hyder, the subject of a merger between Welsh Water and South Wales Electricity, lifted the price 10.5p to 752.5p. Brokers had been hoping the company would give a clearer picture of its future dividend policy.

Investors tuned into GWR, the independent radio broadcaster, after it posted profits up 55 per cent at £8.2 million.

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Clarke will keep an eye focused on ballot box

Continued from page 33
scheme until the new year. Currently, single pensioners with assets of between £10,000 and £16,000 have to contribute towards nursing care, while those with assets of more than £16,000—including their homes—have to meet the full bill.

These limits were increased in last April's Budget after Mr Clarke bowed to pressure from charities and pensioners' groups and raised the threshold above which people must make a contribution towards their own care, and from £8,000 to £16,000 the limit above which they must meet the costs entirely themselves.

But the regulations are still criticised for penalising pensioners who save.

Caroline Merrell on Budget hopes for the tax reform measures

The Revenue moves

Accountants are hoping that the Chancellor should waive — for one year only — the penalties for dilatory returns under the self-assessment system, the draconian reform of the income tax system now beginning to be implemented.

Under the rules, nine million higher-rate taxpayers and self-employed people will be required to calculate their own tax liabilities, with high penalties for late delivery of returns.

It is feared that unless the Chancellor moves to simplify some tax rules making the completion of the lengthy self-assessment returns easier, chaos will result. Those receiving this letter from the Revenue will be mainly the self-employed. Partners and ordinary higher-rate taxpayers will not get the form.

These statements of account will give an estimate of the tax bill for the 1996 to 1997 tax year. This bill will be due in two instalments next year — half will need to be paid at the end of January, with the other half due in July of next year. The Revenue has emphasised

that these bills are only an estimate based on the previous year's tax assessment. Everyone will have an opportunity to object to the Revenue's estimation of the tax due.

For instance, many people will be in the process of appealing against their 1995-96 tax bill, or they may have different allowances because they have married or earn less — all these things could be taken into account in the tax-reduction form which will be sent with the statements of account.

John Whiting, head of personal tax at Price Waterhouse, said: "Like everything from the Revenue, these statements need to be checked. The amounts the Revenue may be asking for may not be right — taxpayers can claim to reduce the amounts or sometimes more may be due. Care is needed, because just like the credit card statement, interest will start to run if you don't get the proper payments in on time."

Accountants will also be getting details of what the Revenue believes their clients should pay. However, these will not be in the same form as the statements of account received by the taxpayers themselves. It is important that those in receipt of a letter from the Revenue show it to their accountant, if they have one.

The actual amount of tax due for the 1996 to 1997 tax year will be worked out using the self-assessment form which will be sent out in April of next year. The Revenue has finally settled on the form's layout after two revisions and it has been extensively piloted in Leicester.

At first many people had difficulty in understanding it. Many complained that it had too many sections which were unrelated to their own particular needs.

Taxpayers will have to show all their income, expenses and any capital gains they have made over the previous 12 months in the form. They must then return it by September to the Revenue, if they want it to work out the bill, and by January the following year if their accountant is working it out for them, or if they are working it out for themselves. Obviously, under this system, there is considerable scope for underpayment and overpayment of tax.

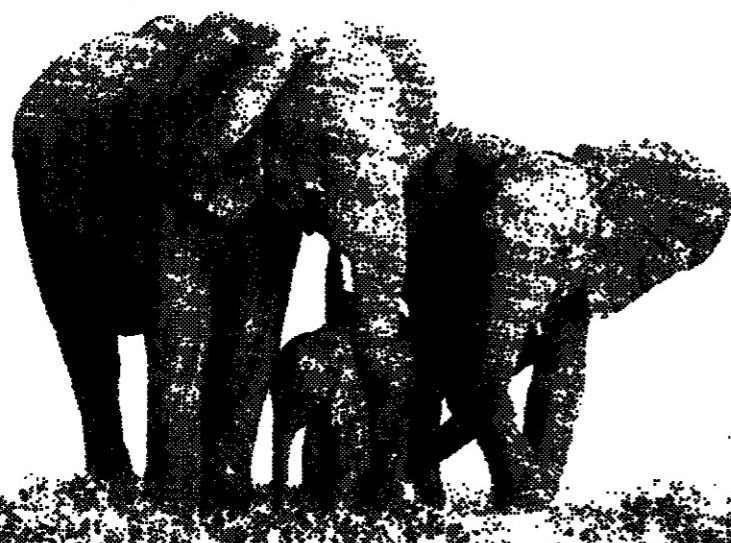
The Inland Revenue has also issued guidelines about how interest on overpayments is to be assessed. The Revenue proposes that interest on overpayment will run from the date at which the tax payment was made, as opposed to when the tax was due. The interest from January 1997 will be set at 6.25 per cent.

Mr Whiting said: "We will be cross-checking to make sure that clients comply with their responsibilities. People do need to take the statements seriously. Like the credit card balance, interest can be added for late payment."



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Chance to make a lasting impression with investors

Kenneth Clarke is unlikely to go down in history as a creator of popular investment schemes. His only contribution to date is the corporate bond personal equity plan, a sub-species of the Pep, an investment dreamt up by Lord Lawson of Blaby, during his spell as Chancellor. John Major can claim credit for the invention of the tax exempt special savings account (Tessa).

However, Mr Clarke now has the chance to have his name attached to an acronym the Oeic (Open-Ended Investment Company), a new, simpler type of investment fund.

All he has to do is to abolish the stamp duty charged on the

buying and selling of units in unit trusts.

For years investors in unit trusts and investment trusts have struggled with the complexities of dual pricing: the arcane process whereby fund managers and market-makers sell units and shares at high offer prices and buy back from other investors at a lower bid price. In between has lain the "spread", an uneasy no man's land for the investor, which varies according to how much profit investment companies think they can make.

Oeics will have a single price. However, their development is being hampered by stamp duty, a point that has been made to the Chancellor.

The Oeic is a hybrid of the investment trust and the unit trust. Like an investment trust it will be a company with shares listed on the London Stock Exchange and will invest in the shares of other companies, gilt-edged stocks and other bonds.

Like a unit trust, the Oeic is open-ended (the managers can create as many holdings as they like in response to demand) and its share capital will rise and fall with investor demand. Unlike either, it will have a single price. Investors will buy and sell at the same price, and any charges levied by the fund managers will be clearly set out.

Since the 1850s the Treasury has levied a 0.5 per cent stamp duty on all transactions in stocks and shares. For complex reasons, this has come to include some of the deals in units within unit trusts. Investors have not noticed the charge because it has fallen within the spread.

However, the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (Autif) believes the inconsistency in the application of stamp duty will harm the growth of single-priced, Oeics, particularly those which adopt a no-charge

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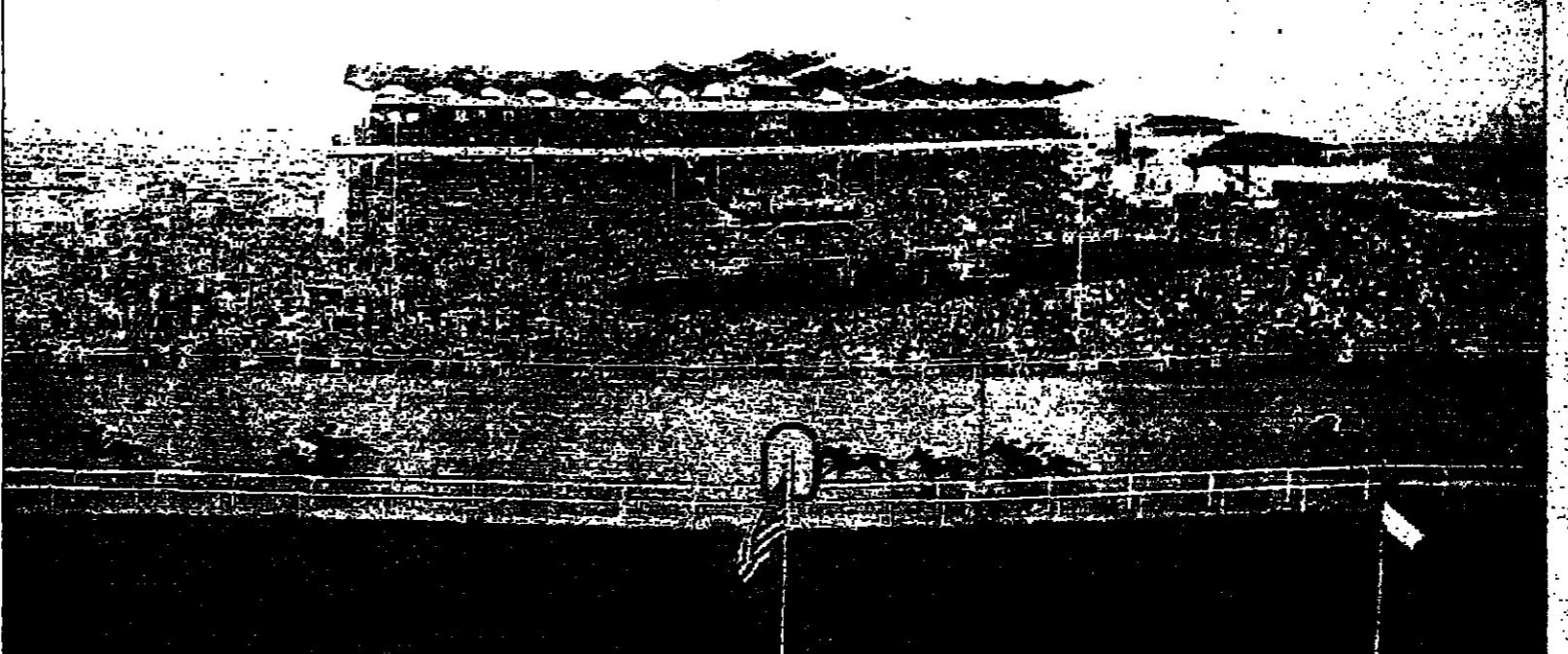
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Winning double: investors in Dubai will be able to put their Alliance & Leicester bonuses to good use at the racecourse while the French stay at home.

Locked-out investors baffled

SOCIETY WATCH



The proposals for the flotation of the Alliance & Leicester Building Society continue to baffle many *Times* readers. Some feel they have been excluded from the payout because of an arbitrary set of rules which seem unrelated to their loyalty to the society.

Many who have held ac-

counts for years are aggrieved that they are being locked out of the bonus, while carpetbaggers who joined the society just before, or just after, the end of last year will get the flat distribution of 250 shares, estimated to be worth in the region of £1,000.

Here we try to explain some of the exclusions:

Q Members living in France will be excluded from the payout, while those living in Germany, Belgium, Sweden and United Arab Emirates will not. Why?

A This problem is graphically illustrated by the Brighton and Worthing branch of the Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust. The first named on the charity account, Leo van Buren, also has his own account on which he is the first name. Mr van Buren will be eligible for only one lot of shares. Equally unfair is the fact that many mentally handicapped and disabled will have trustees or guardians as the first named on their accounts — they too could find themselves locked out.

Some are claiming that this breaks the law, because it discriminates against the disabled. MPs have taken up the cudgels on behalf of the disabled, but no society has yet amended its plans.

Q Many people will miss out on the flotation bonuses because they allowed their accounts to slip below £100 on October 14 this year. Why is this amount important?

A Unlike other societies proposing flotation, when the Alliance & Leicester announced its float, with the first qualifying date on December 31, 1995, it said qualifying savers would be those who had a qualifying account open on that date. It was not necessary to have £100 in the account. However, the Building Societies Act stipulates that in order to vote, members must have £100 in their account at least 56 days before the vote, which is why accounts needed to be topped up by October 14.

Q Some members may be locked out of the payout because the first named on these accounts may also have another ac-

A Those under 18 are not eligible to vote on the flotation plans, which means they are not able to benefit from the shares.

Again this is a stipulation of the Act and is not particular to the Alliance & Leicester float. If the balance in accounts is high enough, the cash bonus could be worth more than the shares, at least in the beginning.

The share price has not yet been set — it will be set closer to the flotation date. At today's prices, the society estimates that shares should be worth around 435p. The shares, though, could rise in price.

They could move to an instant premium because institutions need to get hold of stock.

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SINCE LAUNCH	% CHANGE	POSITION IN SECTOR	% CHANGE	
International Growth	+56.4	3 out of 21	+7.0	AAA
Emerging Companies	+70.2	1 out of 31	+11.6	AAA
American Growth	+130.9	1 out of 13	+20.7	AAA
Far Eastern Growth	+42.4	1 out of 14	+12.3	AAA
Japanese Growth	+17.3	13 out of 81	-	AA
European Growth	+17.2	4 out of 6	+8.4	-
UK Growth	+35.9	1 out of 26	+10.5	AAA
Asian Smaller Markets	+81.9	12 out of 90	-	AAA
Latin American Growth	+13.7	16 out of 25	-	-
Global Bond	+24.8	81 out of 98	-	-

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Sarah Anticoni concludes her two-part series on the perils of cohabitation

Don't be blinded by love



Unmarried couples like Goldie Hawn and Kurt Russell should draw up a legally binding document setting out rights in relation to property and other assets

All professionals, not just doctors, have long espoused the benefits of preventive medicine rather than treating the symptoms when they arise. This message is most frequently delivered by lawyers advising clients who decide to cohabit rather than marry. While drawing up an agreement before living together might be seen to be unromantic, it is the most prudent of couples that tackle these issues at the outset before problems arise.

Of the million or so cohabiting couples in England and Wales, surprisingly few have taken the trouble to set out in a legally binding document their rights and obligations in relation to the property in which they live and any other assets they may have or acquire. This is usually because of the assumption that the law will protect them if anything goes wrong.

This is incorrect. Living together as man and wife does not mean that the laws relating to division of assets on the breakdown of a relationship are identical to those on divorce. They are not. Marriage gives a couple clearly defined rights, and the divorce procedure provides a framework in which the finances of the couple and arrangements for the children can be dealt with if they split. If the couple are not married, there is no such body of law upon which to rely.

Provided both parties take independent legal advice (or have the opportunity to do so) and both are aware of their respective financial positions before they enter into an agreement, a cohabitation agreement may provide reassurance and certainty to both parties.

Such an agreement can specify not only who should be paying what, and in what proportions, during the relationship, but it can also map out how to resolve practical issues that may arise when one or other of the parties wish to extricate themselves from the relationship.

The time and effort spent at the beginning of the relationship in tackling what will happen if that relationship

founds is usually rewarded with a significant reduction in future emotional turmoil and possible legal costs.

What goes into a cohabitation agreement very much depends on what the parties themselves wish to include. It is advisable to take legal advice to ensure that what has been agreed can be effected in law. Ideally, the document should be as comprehensive as possible while, at the same time, limiting the agreement and obligations to those things that a court would enforce. There is no point in detailing who is to wash the dishes on which night of the week.

The first step to creating a cohabitation agreement is for

the couple to discuss matters in order to clarify what they wish to achieve. These should include:

- Who owns the home, and what percentage?
- Who is to pay what outgoings, and from what source?
- Who is to have personal belongings brought to the relationship or acquired during the relationship?
- How would the home be sold, or could one or other party buy out the other?
- How would the home be valued if it was to be sold or bought out?
- If there is a dispute, should the couple mediate as a first step before legal proceedings?

However, cohabitation agreements are not the panacea for all ills. Consideration should also be given to providing life assurance to cover the financial consequences of the death of either partner. Similarly, it is worth investigating how pension benefits and life assurance policies could be written in trust, and the necessary documents should be drawn up.

To adjust the way in which your home is presently held may require a trust deed, and it is extremely important that each party makes a will. At present, the intestacy laws will help cohabitantes only if they have lived together as husband and

wife for at least two years. If they have not, the surviving party will have to prove that he or she was financially dependent on the other partner immediately before his or her death.

Ideally, all these matters should be considered and documented before cohabitation begins, but it is possible to enter into an agreement later. In addition, the agreement can be altered or varied provided both parties agree. In any event, it should be reviewed periodically, especially when either party's financial situation changes significantly, such as when either party retires or when the couple decide to marry or have children.

Flexible loans point way for mortgages

LEGAL & GENERAL has brought out a simple, flexible mortgage that could become the blueprint for home loans in the future - and might do so, if building societies stop bickering like kamikaze pilots in their battle for dominance. It could stand long enough to catch what the opposition is doing.

The loan is a straightforward, variable-rate mortgage with the rate set at a competitive 6.59%*, and a guarantee that it will never exceed 1.2 points above bank base rate. The loan is set up on an interest-only basis, and any of the usual savings vehicles such as endowments, Peps or pension, may be used to pay it off.

So far, no different, though it is pleasing to see that the loan has absolutely no strings in the shape of requirements to take Legal & General's own insurance policies or Peps, nor any early-repayment penalties. However, what makes the loan different is the flexibility offered over repayments of capital.

Borrowers can pay off lump sums at any time without penalty, or pay extra small cash monthly at any time (subject to a maximum of £50). An immediate adjustment will be made to the interest owing on the reduced debt. Further, the excess amounts repaid in this way can be placed into an "available reserve" which can then be borrowed back by the homeowner at any time, for any purpose.

The cost of this later borrowing will be the same as the rest of the

mortgage. The only limitation is that the loan must remain at a minimum £30,000, otherwise there would be little complications.

Such a scheme has clear advantages. Many mortgage advisers say that borrowers are still reluctant to take short-term mortgages because they are unsure at the outset how they will be able to manage with the new property, especially when they have the additional costs of terminating a new property.

But a year or two later, once things have settled down, they may well realise that they could, indeed, afford higher sums, and thus shorten the overall term. Early accelerated repayment schemes have required a commitment from the borrower from the start, and consequently have not attracted many takers.

The second advantage, while not unique, shows up once again how building societies are behind the times: the fact that interest on small repayments is adjusted immediately rather than at the end of the lender's financial year.

And finally, for those who want to save ahead for some planned future expenditure, making use of an available reserve feature is a very tax-efficient means.

Article written by Diana Wright. Reproduced from THE SUNDAY TIMES, 22 OCTOBER 1995

*The mortgage rate has been adjusted from 6.59% since first publication.

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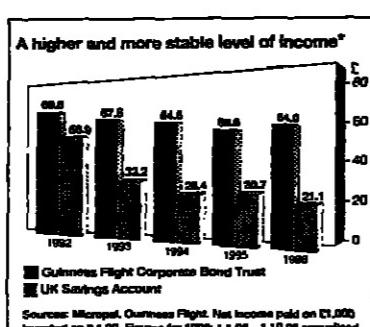
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Sara McConnell explains rights to 'reasonable' protection, and

ANDREW HASSON

Lessees must stand ground

Lesses of flats who are disputing "unreasonable" service charge bills should pay nothing and dare the landlord to take them to court, a packed meeting of leaseholders in Brighton heard this week.

Peter Haler, chief executive of the Leasehold Enfranchisement Advisory Service (Leas), says new, strengthened laws will protect leaseholders from the threat of losing their homes for refusing to pay service charges they consider to be unreasonable.

He told hundreds of lessees at the Brighton council-sponsored meeting at Hove Town Hall: "You need not pay anything that you dispute. Your landlord cannot repossess until and unless the courts judge the charges to be unreasonable."

Many leaseholders at the meeting alleged that their freeholders were attempting to pressure them into paying high service charges by threatening them with eviction.

The Times has uncovered widespread evidence of similar practices in other parts of the UK, particularly London and along the South Coast.

Some landlords are demanding payment from flatowners on long leases for repairs and services which they say either have not been carried out or have been shoddily effected at high cost. Refusal to pay is countered with a notice threatening eviction.

Among the complainants

were some of those whose freeholds are owned by Adelaide Homes, based in Hove.

This summer the Government moved to close the loophole whereby landlords could follow up a service charge demand with an eviction notice.

Now the landlord must go to court to prove that the charges are reasonable. Only if the court decides they are can landlords serve notices on anyone refusing to pay.

But Mr Haler gave warning that any strategy of non-payment would depend on

New law puts boot on the other foot, and onus is on the landlord to justify the charges

lessees not paying the service charge on the freeholder's behalf and adding it to the mortgage.

Some landlords are still yielding to pressure from landlords to pay up because they are frightened of losing the property on which their loan is secured. Leaseholders often do not find out until later that their lender has paid a disputed service charge. By the time they do they have lost their chance to challenge the charges. The Council of Mort-

gage Lenders has told lenders that their security should be protected under the new rules because landlords could not immediately repossess.

But he added: "You can never say adding arrears to the mortgage debt has disappeared. There could be circumstances when the society is in danger."

Other leasehold reform campaigners and solicitors agreed cautiously with Mr Haler that leaseholders were now on much stronger ground if they withheld disputed charges.

But Peter Ward, partner at Trowers and Hamlins, a firm of solicitors, said: "The new law puts the boot on the other foot, and the onus is on the landlord to justify the charges. But you should look at each case on its merits."

Lessees could, for example, find themselves liable for interest on service charges if the charges were judged reasonable by the court, said Mr Ward. The other danger for leaseholders is that a new system of cheaper, fixed-fee leasehold valuation tribunals for hearing service charge disputes will not be in operation until April next year.

Until then, the existing system of hearing disputes in the county court will apply, the Department of the Environment has confirmed. This means that if the landlord wins a dispute, leaseholders may face paying his costs as well as their own.



Freeholder: the offices of Adelaide Homes in Hove

Code of conduct forces agents to come clean

A new code of conduct published this week ensures that landlords and managing agents will, for the first time, have to reveal what commission they are receiving for arranging buildings insurance for leaseholders.

Many leaseholders have attempted to challenge high buildings insurance premiums. But landlords have previously been under no obligation to reveal commissions which push up the premium and which are paid for by leaseholders. Even under the code, however, leaseholders must ask for the information because landlords will not be obliged to volunteer it.

The code, published by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), will also outline leaseholders' rights to be consulted about major works, what services should be included in management fees, the setting up

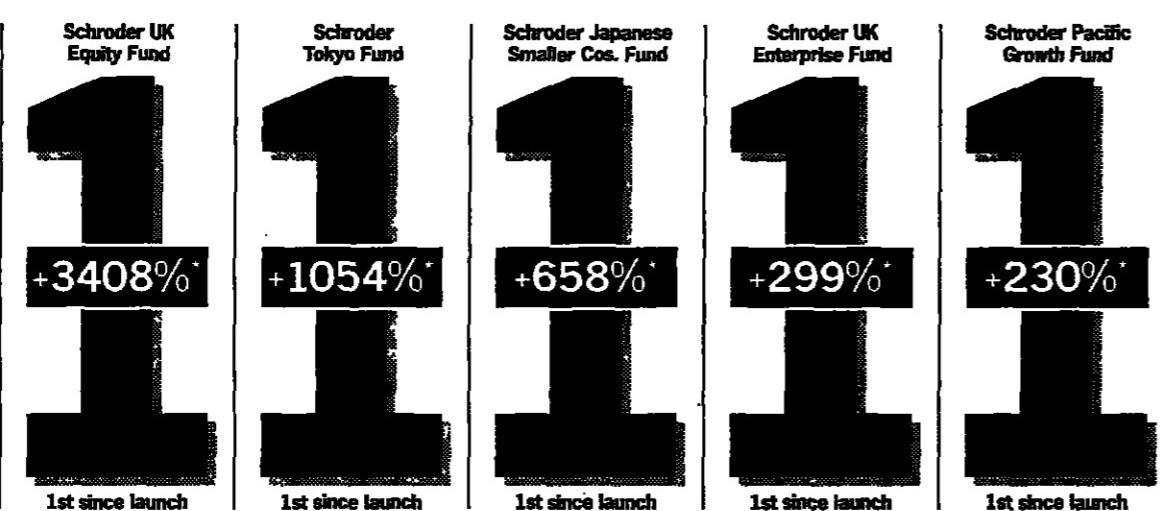
and running of reserve funds, and disputes procedures.

This is the first time that the duties of landlords and managing agents have been explicitly set out.

The code will cover all landlords and managing agents, not just the estimated 20 per cent who are members of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

Pressure for the code has been growing since allegations that a number of landlords and agents had been making what leaseholders believed to be unreasonable service charge demands and allegedly pressuring those who refused to pay. Many leaseholders did not know their legal rights and there was no benchmark by which to judge the performance of managing agents.

Leaseholders will be able to take landlords or agents to the Leasehold Valuation Tribunal for flouting the code. The code will come into effect from March 1997 and will be reviewed after two years. Leaseholders will be able to buy copies of the code from RICS Books at £9.95. Contact RICS, 12 Great George Street, London, SW1P 3AD.



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Time away from work because of health problems, and the resulting break in pension contributions, is likely to make a significant dent in the value of your fund on retirement

Helen Pridham on insurance against inability to pay pension premiums

Waive worries goodbye

Increasing numbers of people taking out personal pensions are being persuaded to incorporate a "waiver of premium" benefit in their policy. This ensures that if you are unable to work through illness, your pension contributions will be maintained by your pension provider.

However, not only does the scope of this benefit vary considerably from company to company, there is some debate

about whether it is necessary at all. The arguments in favour seem strong. Most people are investing too little, too late anyway, so any missed contributions will mean even less income at retirement. Knowing your pension contributions are covered will be one less thing to worry about if you are incapacitated.

Independent financial advisers are especially keen on promoting the waiver of pre-

mium option after one adviser was successfully sued by a client for failing to offer it.

The benefit is not triggered immediately you become ill. There is normally a qualifying period of six months. Thereafter the pension provider will pick up the tab and credit your fund until you are fit to return to work or until retirement age if your condition means that you are unable to work again.

Unfortunately, there are

considerable differences in the way the benefit is provided by pension companies. Alan Lakey, of Highclere Financial Services, says: "The first difference is that there are some companies which do not even offer premium waiver. Those that do may use different definitions of inability to work, or may impose various exclusions regarding pastimes, geographical limitations or changes in occupation."

There are broadly three definitions of the inability to work. There are policies that will meet premiums in the event of disability if the policyholder cannot follow his or her own occupation. Others pay out only if you are incapable of

following any occupation at all. "In effect, you would have to be paralysed or in a coma to qualify," says Mr Lakey.

Occupying the middle ground are companies which define inability to work as being unable to follow your own occupation or any for which you are suited by education, training or past experience. But Mr Lakey says this "enables the providers to refute claims on the basis that you could undertake a job for which they think you are suited".

Cost is another big variable, and it is not necessarily related to the generosity of the cover provided. A deduction of between 1 per cent and 13.5 per cent may be made from your premiums depending on the company concerned.

Some companies charge everyone the same throughout. Others fix the charge depending on your age at the outset of your policy, some charge women more than men and in some cases your occupation is also part of the equation. A lower-cost approach adopted by companies such as Standard Life is to take a variable amount linked to actual age.

But whatever the charge is it is too much, according to Virgin Direct. Virgin launched its personal policy in October with no waiver of premium option. Rowan Gormley, managing director, says: "We believe people are being asked to pay a lot for something they are highly unlikely to get any

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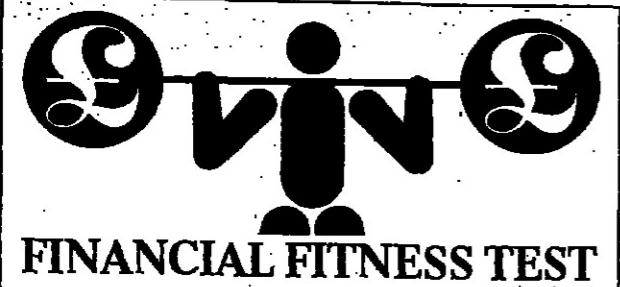
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FINANCIAL FITNESS TEST

Can you be ethical and still get a good return on your pension? This was the dilemma faced by Margaret Unwin during her Weekend Money Financial Fitness Test.

Ms Unwin, 35, and her partner, Peter, have just come back from spending more than four years in New Zealand. They are now in the process of re-establishing themselves here, which involves finding jobs and somewhere to live as well as getting their finances in order.

The New Zealand trip has eaten up the couple's savings, so there is a limit to how much financial planning they can do at the moment. Ms Unwin does, however, have some money to put into pension each month.

She has just been taken on as director of the charity Concah - Continuing Care At Home - which aims to help the disabled and chronically sick to stay in their own homes. Initially, she is working the charity three days a week for a pro rata salary of £38,000. She will be employed full-time as soon as she has raised enough money to pay for her own salary - which Ms Unwin reckons will be within two years. As the charity's first employee, as well as fundraising, she is responsible for things such as finding office space, buying computers and planning Concah's future strategy. The appointment has also prompted her to focus on her own personal long-term planning.

Concah has offered to put the equivalent of 9.6 per cent of her monthly salary into the pension of her choosing. "They have done this because they can't offer other huge benefits," she says. It is this which prompted Ms Unwin to think about her retirement provision and to seek the advice of Victoria Amey from Fiona Price & Partners, independent financial advisers based in London. She admits: "If they



Margaret Unwin wanted 100 per cent of her contributions invested in an ethical fund

environment or trade in things like weapons, pornography and tobacco. Instead, it tries to focus on those which "make a positive contribution to society" by things such as conservation, pollution control or good equal opportunities.

Ms Amey also recommended taking out a waiver of premium, which would protect contributions to the scheme in the event that Ms Unwin was unable to work through ill-health. Although the extra cost means slightly less of Concah's contribution being invested in her actual pension, Ms Unwin has seen enough of the problems which lack of financial provision can cause to those who are unable to work to decide it was worth it.

Ms Amey's other recommendation was that the pension should be written in trust because Ms Unwin and her partner are unmarried. Without this there could be a prolonged delay.

Finally, one more consideration. Having sold up once for foreign parts, Ms Unwin could never totally rule out wanting to up sticks again. Ms Amey was able to be reassuring: "The great thing about having a pension fund is that you will be able to draw it anywhere in the world."

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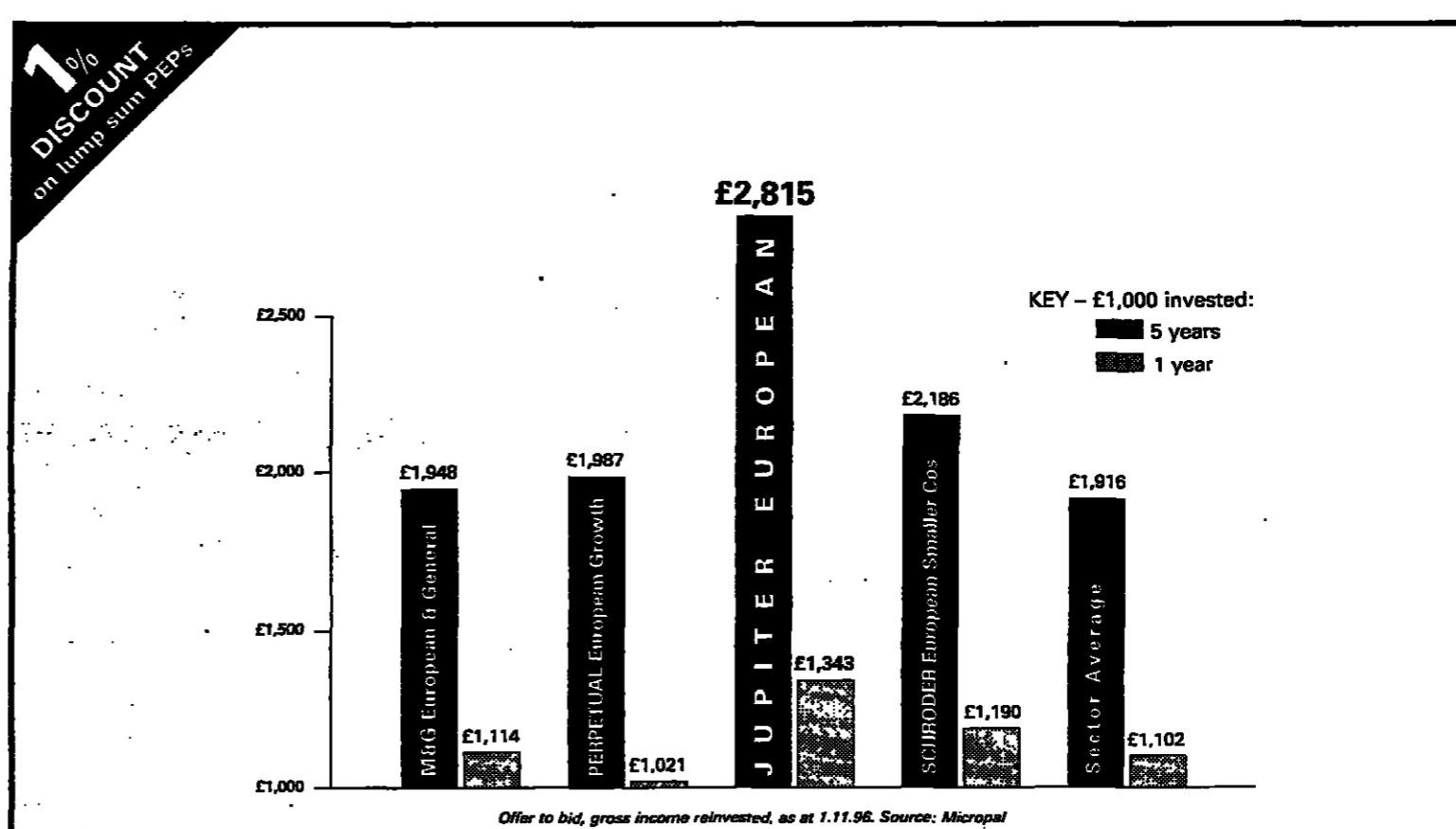
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by portfolio poser

per cent on the value of the portfolio (except on personal equity plans held within the fund which are exempt) plus dealing commission of 1.25 per cent on the first £10,000. For the advisory service, the annual charge is 0.4 per cent plus dealing commission of 1.65 per cent.

Tony Richards, a director with the firm, says the advisory service is more expensive because of the extra work involved in contacting the client every time the manager wants to buy or sell.

He says: "A recent survey showed that the average commission made by a broker on a £10,000 portfolio was £1,400 per annum, or a charge of 1.4 per cent overall."

Only a quarter of Henderson's clients use the discretionary service, a figure he believes should be higher. Few quibble with investment decisions when they are consulted before stocks are bought or sold. Mr Richards said: "The FTSE 100 index can easily move 50 points in a day, and if

you have to spend an hour ringing around clients you could miss the bottom of the market. It can mean you also miss placings and sometimes new issues."

The average value of the portfolios managed by Henderson is £480,000 per person. The minimum is about £75,000. Mr Richards says family members of existing clients can, however, invest much smaller amounts.

He says that over the long term, clients have historically earned a return of 14 per cent from equities, 6 per cent from gilts and about 5 per cent from deposit accounts.

A balanced portfolio should have 65 per cent of its holdings in the UK, 25 per cent abroad in Japan, the US and Europe, and 10 per cent in gilts or near cash. The weighting of gilts in the portfolio should increase as the client nears retirement.

Kean Seager, an independent financial adviser with Whitechurch Securities of

Bristol, says turnover of 25 per cent in a year would not be out of place for an aggressive portfolio. He suggests using the FTSE All-Share and FTSE 100 as benchmarks to compare the performance of your portfolio. However, your portfolio may have done worse or better than the FTSE 100 index if it is heavily weighted in overseas investments.

Under Personal Investment Authority regulations, advisers are not allowed to make forecasts of how your portfolio will perform. However, they can say how they have done in the past, although they may quote the best result from the best client over the best period.

Financial advisers agree that in the current economic climate, when you can get an average 4 per cent interest per annum from a building society instant access account, you could reasonably expect to get 8 per cent on your managed portfolio and 10 per cent if you opt for higher-risk stocks.

A glance at the indices for

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Market foray proved costly

Geoffrey Cutts, a marketing manager, put £44,000 into a portfolio managed on a discretionary basis by Raphael Zorn Hensley Limited, a City stockbroker.

He invested the first tranche of £20,000 in September 1993, followed by £10,000 in October 1993 and £14,000 in July 1994. Having already invested the maximum allowed in tax exempt special savings accounts (Tessell) and personal equity plans (Peps), he wanted some exposure to the stock market.

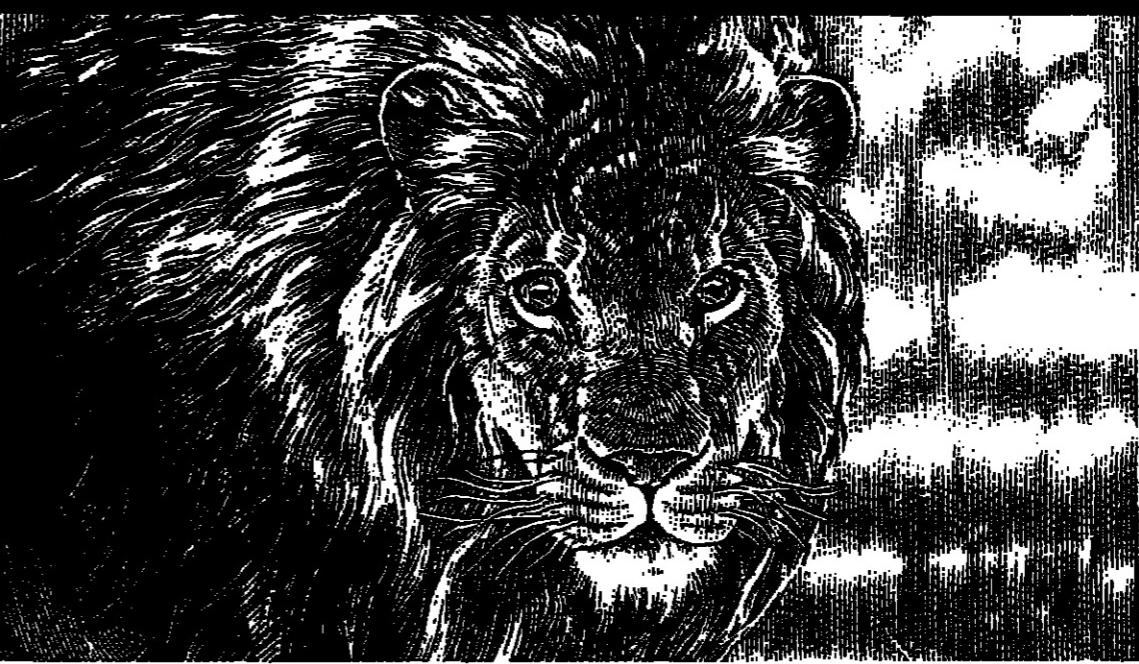
Three years later, unhappy with the performance of his portfolio, he ordered the firm to liquidate his assets. He received back just under £44,000. "I am disappointed that in three years my broker has not made me a profit," he said, "particularly when the UK markets have been doing so well."

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Liquidated portfolio: Geoffrey Cutts was not impressed

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Caroline Merrell considers the risks and rewards of emerging market funds



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For those who have money to burn, the emerging economies of the Far East, South America, and the former Eastern European countries can provide among the very best returns. However, the potential for disaster is great — any investment in an emerging market can be something of a white-knuckle ride.

Many of these countries are politically unstable, economically volatile and prone to natural disasters. Added to this is the potential for loss caused by big fluctuations in currency — a sudden devaluation can wipe out any gains through the fund manager's good stock selection. For example, the devaluation of the Mexican peso at the end of 1994 halved the value of many Latin American unit trusts. Most were highly exposed to Mexico, then considered to be the most stable of the Latin American economies.

Economists believe, however, that over the long term, emerging markets will perform better than the developed economies of Europe and America. According to Sarah Ross, an economist with Foreign & Colonial, one of the leading fund managers in emerging markets, the best performing countries over the last year have been in the former Eastern bloc.

She said: "Hungary and Poland have performed particularly well. The Hungarian market is up 105 per cent in dollar terms since the beginning of this year, while Poland is up 65 per cent." Hungary had lagged behind former Eastern bloc countries in terms of reforms — over the past few months it has made

up some of the ground. She added: "Its currency has been devalued, and it has had to suffer higher interest rates. It has also gone through a number of privatisations. This has paid off in terms of stock market performance."

Latin America has also produced some good results over the last year, in spite of the fact that two of the continent's biggest economies, Argentina and Mexico, have been in a recession over the past 12

months. Ms Ross said: "The best performing economies have been Venezuela and Brazil." She added that Venezuela's growth had been helped by intervention of the International Monetary Fund. The country has also embarked on a privatisation programme. Brazil's economy had been helped by continued fiscal and political stability; growth there was about 3 per cent.

The other biggest emerging market area is the Far East, in-

cluding China, China via Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand, Korea and the Philippines. The best market in this area has been China. Ms Ross said: "China was growing particularly fast, too fast, but this has been controlled with tighter monetary policy. Investors in Hong Kong and China are now much more optimistic about the slowdown in 1997. China has been a lot less confrontational with the UK over the issue." But Korea and

Thailand have done badly — both have suffered political problems. The Korean market, for instance, has fallen 20 per cent over the year. Other countries which have performed well include Malaysia, the Philippines and Taiwan — the latter has risen by 27 per cent over the 12 months.

Surprisingly, Ms Ross believes that one of the most promising markets over the next five years will be Russia, in spite of President Yeltsin's recent operation



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Holiday industry set to climb above turbulence

The £7 billion holiday market has traditionally been a cut-throat and high-risk business with companies flying by the seats of their pants on wafer-thin profit margins and folding as quickly as they spring up.

Last year was particularly bad for the industry. The good weather encouraged people to holiday in the United Kingdom rather than abroad. On top of this tour operators had increased the number of holidays on offer. The lack of demand forced down prices, leaving most companies heavily out of pocket.

First Choice, whose group chief executive, Francis Barron, was ousted this month, suffered particularly badly. Inspirations, too, has issued a profits warning.

Fingers burnt, the tour operators cut capacity by 15 per cent this summer. This, coupled with increased demand after a comparatively cold summer, has helped to push up prices. Merrill Lynch, the securities house, forecasts profits from United Kingdom tour operating and travel retailing to be £21 million this year, up from £23 million last year, and for the improved trend to continue throughout 1997.

The industry is becoming increasingly dominated by the leading players, such as Thomson, owned by the Thomson Corporation of Canada; Airtours; Thomas Cook,

owned by Westdeutsche Landesbank; First Choice and Inspirations.

As holidaymakers travel to more distant locations, such as Malaysia, Thailand, and the United States, and quality expectations continue to rise, holiday companies are coming under increasing pressure to merge with international partners and become vertically integrated. It is now common for holiday companies to own the tour operator, the travel agency, a charter airline and hotels.

But this trend has worried the Office of Fair Trading, which referred tour operators and travel agents to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission this month. The OFT is concerned that travel agents will plug the holidays offered by their owners without giving customers a proper choice.

The market has taken a relatively sanguine view of the referral, with one analyst dismissing it as "a complete irrelevance". Many feel that competition is already fierce enough. Despite the volatile nature of the market and the

shadow cast by the MMC referral, the longer-term picture is rosy. Figures from the Henley Centre for Forecasting show that United Kingdom spending on holidays abroad is forecast to double over the next five years, from £14.3 billion in 1995 to nearly £29 billion in 2001.

By contrast, spending on domestic holidays is forecast to grow at a much slower rate.

This is bad news for the likes of Rank, which owns Butlins and Clasico, and Scottish & Newcastle, which owns Pontins and Center Parks. The clever companies are those diversifying abroad so

that they are less exposed to the vagaries of the United Kingdom market. Analysts are particularly bullish about Airtours, the £1.1 billion success story led by David Crossland, the chairman and chief executive.

Its Mediterranean cruise holiday joint venture with Carnival Cruises of the United States is doing well, as is its Scandinavian Leisure Group subsidiary, which has a 50 per cent market share in Scandinavia. And with Carnival Cruises tipped to make a full takeover bid for Airtours next year, the company looks a worthwhile punt for investors.

However, there is not much else in the sector to interest investors. Thomas Cook and Thomson are not quoted on the UK stock market. First Choice's management problems make it a risky, if cheap, buy, while Inspirations is obviously experiencing problems, too. Eurocamp offers a decent 7.2 per cent yield for those seeking income, but it has unexciting growth prospects.

MATTHEW WALL



SECTOR IN FOCUS

shadow cast by the MMC

referral, the longer-term picture is rosy. Figures from the Henley Centre for Forecasting show that United Kingdom spending on holidays abroad is forecast to double over the next five years, from £14.3 billion in 1995 to nearly £29 billion in 2001.

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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Flat-rate method is the fairest way to distribute society flotation shares

From Mr S.P. Hurst
Sir, With reference to the Alliance & Leicestershire stock market flotation.

I have been an investor with the society for more than two years and I had considerably more than £100 in my account at the time of the flotation announcement.

Had the society followed a policy of distributing shares based on account balances as in the National Provincial takeover by Abbey National and the proposed Halifax flotation, then I would have more than likely received more shares than the basic 250 being proposed.

I am, however, more than happy to share equally the flotation proceeds with less well off members of the society such as pensioners or mortgage payers struggling to meet their expenses.

Yours faithfully,
S.HURST,
555 Chesterfield Road,
Sheffield.

Problems faced by loyal staff at NatWest

From the General Secretary, NatWest Staff Association
Sir, Recent correspondence (Service declined after Service Centre opened, Mr R.A. Smeethurst and Mrs E.A. Daubly, October 26) illustrate succinctly the many issues facing staff in NatWest today. Both correspondents correctly recognise that the problems are not due to the staff, but to the bank's approach to change.

Mrs Daubly puts in a nutshell all the many issues facing loyal NatWest staff who have worked there for a number of years but who now feel that the bank is taking advantage. Unfortunately for many NatWest staff, they are too frightened to speak up as Mrs Daubly has done and it needs more customers to complain publicly and privately about the level of service that they are receiving and which they are expected to pay for before things will change.

As a union, we are not opposed to the onward march of technology but we do want to ensure that technological advancement goes hand in hand with the better service for the customer, coupled with some decency and integrity for the staff who have to stay as well as those who have to go.

Unfortunately, the tales told by Mr Smeethurst and Mrs Daubly are too common but if members of the public want to write to me with the difficulties they are experiencing, we will try to feed them through to the bank urgently.

Yours faithfully,
RORY MURPHY,
Churchill Court,
Palmerston Road,
Bournemouth, Dorset.



Long way to go: the decision not to allow Post Office staff to share in its profits would have been made by the DTI

Double standard by Government over PRP

From Mr R.Kirtley

Sir, I would like to augment the opinions raised in your article (£1.5bn pay monster since November 2) and Dominic Moss and Philip Fisher who corresponded on November 9.

Messrs Moss and Fisher concurred that it would be folly for this Government to remove the tax concession of profit-related pay, being detrimental to employment and how affected people would subsequently react against the Conservatives when at the polling stations next year. I broadly agree with them.

I would wish to add that the Government has exer-

cised double standards on profit-related pay (PRP) since its inception some years ago. I always thought it peculiar that successive Chancellors, when recommending the virtues of PRP to the nation during Budget speeches and after Finance Acts, never instigated PRP "in house"; directly controlled companies such as the then British Rail and, more importantly, from a profitability viewpoint, the Post Office.

When I investigated the enormous sum simply handed over to the Treasury annually (about £350 million the most recent) one can see why the preacher will not follow his own sermon in the example of the Royal Mail.

Senior Post Office managers can only operate under any cut in their annual dividend by profit-related incentives being introduced to the Post Office or any other state industry which turned over a huge and growing annual bounty.

Recently, I pondered if Mr Lang should be on the BBC's *Call my Bluff* by his threats to remove the Post Office monopoly owing to industrial tension; would he really want to kill the golden goose?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT KIRTELEY,
30 Wavertree Road,
Streatham Hill SW2.

pursuit of funds. This knowledge is intrinsic in the Treasury who would not risk any cut in their annual dividend by profit-related incentives being introduced to the Post Office or any other state industry which turned over a huge and growing annual bounty.

For the very reason that my last point states, your November 2 article may have more credence than your correspondents' opine and the Government may dispense with common sense in the

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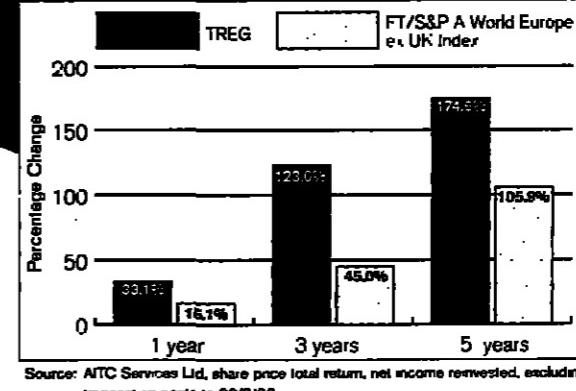
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January	- 0.882	0.771	0.686	0.598	0.538	0.489	0.395	
February	- 0.854	0.764	0.673	0.582	0.522	0.483	0.376	
March	0.936	0.859	0.770	0.687	0.627	0.577	0.520	
April	0.898	0.825	0.735	0.623	0.575	0.511	0.454	0.346
May	0.884	0.817	0.724	0.615	0.565	0.509	0.448	0.337
June	0.879	0.813	0.720	0.610	0.560	0.503	0.443	0.333
July	0.878	0.803	0.720	0.615	0.577	0.511	0.441	0.332
August	0.878	0.795	0.719	0.611	0.572	0.508	0.425	0.322
September	0.879	0.787	0.709	0.612	0.568	0.502	0.419	0.318
October	0.870	0.781	0.695	0.609	0.569	0.504	0.405	0.305
November	0.861	0.775	0.691	0.603	0.564	0.487	0.398	0.295
December	0.864	0.770	0.692	0.601	0.544	0.489	0.394	0.295
1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996		
January	0.287	0.181	0.134	0.115	0.088	0.053	0.024	
February	0.280	0.175	0.128	0.108	0.088	0.047	0.019	
March	0.287	0.170	0.125	0.104	0.079	0.048	0.015	
April	0.229	0.155	0.108	0.094	0.067	0.038	0.008	
May	0.219	0.158	0.104	0.090	0.068	0.038	0.008	
June	0.214	0.147	0.104	0.091	0.068	0.037	0.005	
July	0.213	0.149	0.108	0.093	0.068	0.036	0.005	
August	0.201	0.147	0.103	0.084	0.061	0.021	0.005	
September	0.189	0.143	0.103	0.084	0.062	0.029	0.007	
October	0.180	0.134	0.101	0.085	0.058	0.027		
November	0.183	0.134	0.101	0.085	0.058	0.027		
December	0.184	0.135	0.105	0.085	0.058	0.027		

The 1% margin for discounts to materials on or after April 6, 1985 (April 1, 1985 for materials purchased before April 6, 1985) is the month in which the allowable expenditure was incurred, or March 1982 where the expenditure was incurred before that month.

We didn't call it a Personal Choice mortgage for nothing.

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All lending is subject to approval by the Bank of Scotland's financial status and valuation of the property. Full details and a written consumer credit quotation are available from Bank of Scotland, Mortgages Direct, PO Box 12304, Edinburgh EH12 9DY. The Bank requires security over the property and house building insurance for reinstatement value. To apply for a mortgage, call 0800 810 810. Standard Life, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority, for life assurance, pensions and unit trust business. Telephone calls may be recorded for security purposes and may be monitored under the Bank's quality control procedures. Standard Life is a registered name of the Governor and Company of the Bank of Scotland. The option to underpay, overpay, take payment holidays, release equity from your property are all available within a pre-set limit.

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Shares close at best of the day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

THE TIMES AND SPACES OF REFORM AND SERVICE

RUGBY UNION: TWICKENHAM OFFERS PERFECT STAGE FOR ENGLAND TO SHOW FACE OF FUTURE

New adventure story longing to be launched

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ADVENTURE is not a word normally associated with the England rugby union team—not, at any rate, since Will Carling's 1990 team met its Waterloo at Murrayfield—but the XV that will meet Italy at Twickenham today has been chosen with just that quality in mind. The prospect is ambitious yet, at the same time, daunting.

Leopards do not change their spots overnight. It is eight months since England last played an international, against Ireland, eight months since they won a somewhat colourless five nations' championship. Today, there are only eight survivors from that side, so the selectors will argue that a different philosophy has already been introduced.

Yet theory and practice are different things. The international arena is an unforgiving one and Italy include just the degree of experience to test England's young cubs to the full. They are a side full of purpose, intent on erasing the unhappy impression created on their last appearance here (the 1991 World Cup pool game, so littered with penalties) and creating their own history in pursuit of that elusive goal, a place in an enlarged version of the present five nations' championship.

However, there can be no doubt that this England is the one that Jack Rowell, the coach, seeks to create. During his two-year reign, he has often grumbled at the inheritance handed down to him; now, he has watched the development in the A team of ambitious newcomers such as Gomarsall, Simpson and Shaw, has helped to oversee an attractive style of play, and now that must be translated to the top echelon.

The transplant will take time. Even though the conditions of ten years ago are not strictly relevant to today, it is worth recalling the high hopes of just such a new-look England team that played Romania in 1985, that opened the season with running rugby and closed in some confusion.

to break up the fledgeling relationship at half back between Gomarsall and Catt, whose first game together this will be. They will try also to cut down the space close to set pieces that Gomarsall and his club colleagues in the back row, Lawrence Dallaglio and Chris Sheasby, will hope to exploit.

England go into the game without a proven goalkicker. In training this week, Catt has answered most of the demands made on him, but Twickenham, with 50,000 people in it, will be a different matter. Catt is the most confident of players, with the disposition to shrug off misfortune, but there is no doubt that failure in one respect can have an insidious effect on the rest of a player's game. He may kick every chance that is offered, he may not. There is no way of telling.

If England's plane bear fruit, of course, it will not matter. They will have found the space to use the long-striding Tim Stimpson from full back, in a way which they could not last season for Catt, and to send the bustling, Adedayo Adebayo away. The understanding of the Bath backs will have come into play and a new day will have dawned—but it is a big "if". Specifically, they will work

Gomarsall arrives with extended stay in view

David Hands meets an England new boy in no mood to relinquish his hard-won senior shirt

When Andy Gomarsall runs out at Twickenham today, mothers everywhere will avert their eyes rather than watch one who seems so unutterably young mixing it with a gang of nasty unsheaved forwards—and those are only the members of his own England team, never mind the visitors from Italy, each of them intent on making Gomarsall's debut less than memorable.

Yet the maternal tendency has been here before—a year ago, it was the equally fresh-faced Matt Dawson making his debut and thereby hangs a moral for Gomarsall. England won a five nations' championship with Dawson and Paul Grayson, his Northampton partner, at half back, and now neither are in the senior squad—Gomarsall, having won selection against Italy, is determined to stay.

"I had a message from Mellie [Nigel Melville], who said that this shouldn't be a one-off, this is my future and you have to think like that, take the bull by the horns," Gomarsall said. No man could have had a better mentor. Melville, now director of rugby at Wasps, was perhaps the most natural scrum half of his generation, as well as a player who captained England in his first international.

Gomarsall's appearance today completes a set of internationals at every age level, from his days at Bedford School via captaincy of a grand-slam winning 18 Group schools side in 1992 and seven appearances for England A last year and this. There is, then, more to him than meets the eye, the effervescent personality of the 22-year-old student masking a determination to reach the top.

There is strength in that sturdy 13st 8lb frame, speed off the mark that can so easily catch defences napping, and, above all, the confidence to take decisions. Yet selection as one of five newcomers caught him by surprise. "I've been



Gomarsall practises "doing the simple things well".

around the squad for two years now and every team selection I've turned up hoping I would be in, but I haven't been," he said. "That was partly through not having a firm place at Wasps, but

I felt this year could be my year.

"The club has been playing well, I have got on tremendously well with Alex [King] at stand-off, but, coming to the team meeting a fortnight ago, I told myself that I would miss out again—I didn't want to be let down. When I heard, I couldn't believe it, but the surprise was mingled with relief, because I've been waiting for it for so long."

Gomarsall's appetite was

wetted last year, when he found himself flown from Australia, where England were touring, to join England before their World Cup quarter-final with Australia, injured and illness threatened. Ben Morris, a

Karen Bracken,

the senior scrum halves, and the young ones buzzed into play on stand-by, occupying

places that were

have belonged to

Dawson had

been concussed

while playing against Queensland.

"It was a wonderful ex-

perience, even though I wasn't needed," Gomarsall said.

"The actual experience of

meeting people, of knowing

here, so we'd be stupid to imagine Ireland won't be highly charged. Two years ago, we had the likes of Lydon and Farr-Jones to pull us out of trouble. This side is now starting to develop similar lines."

Even a little wit and invention from them would represent progress after the dispiriting 40-25 defeat by Samoa, but, in the lineout especially, Ireland's main problem will be securing possession. Wood, for all his fine skills as a hooker in other areas, has his problems throwing in at the lineout.

Eales and Waugh, the Australia totems, are far too good for Wood not to get his air right. Around the fringes, Ireland's job must be one of containment, for, if the Australia forwards do connect with their backs, it might be an embarrassment.

Eales, the Australia captain, said: "In 1991, we had the fright of our lives

Irish hope memories will rekindle fires of old

FROM CHRISTOPHER IRVINE
IN DUBLIN

IRELAND require a reminder of the obvious frailties exposed 12 days ago by Western Samoa like a patient needs a relapse. A soft Irish underbelly is not noticeably stronger for nine changes to the side. Whatever team was chosen, Australia would still be runaway favourites at Lansdowne Road today.

Memories of the 1991 World Cup quarter-final in Dublin are being stirred. That day, too, ended in defeat by Australia, one of five since Ireland last beat them at home, in 1968. It took a last-minute try to kill off Ireland. For all that the present Australia team are not what they were five years ago, Ireland have retreated a long way.

Keith Wood might notice the difference as captain for the first time. He appreciates that passion alone is

insufficient. "We need to biff, bash and swarm all over them, but you can't rely on Trojan rugby," Wood said. "We've to be positive and run the ball, because you can't simply wear down Australia."

Old-fashioned set-piece rugby accounted for a sluggish Scotland two weeks ago, and against a pack as small and immobile as Ireland's, the same tactic would prove effective. However, with the forecast cold and crisp, the opportunity for the Australian ball players to express themselves on an unbeaten but unsatisfactory tour would be too good to miss.

The Australians were locked out yesterday as Ireland did their tour of inspection at the ground. If the same happens today, Ireland can nibble away at close quarters, then the worst fears might be confounded.

What Murray Kidd, Ireland's New

Zealand coach, identified as the need for cool-headed decision making hinges on the contested combination at half back of Paul Burke, on his return, and Stephen McIlroy, one of two new caps at scrum half.

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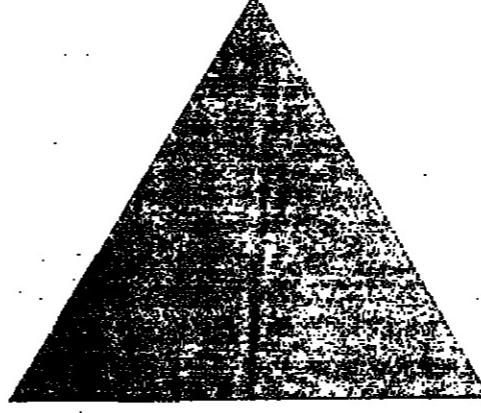
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Eales, the Australia captain, said:



Glass. Handle
with care.



Glass. Handle with joy in your heart
and a spring in your step.

Bass

HAND PULLED SINCE 1777. IN PINT BOTTLES

RACING: STRONG PROMISE'S RETRIEVING MISSION MAY BE DENIED BY EASTERBY-TRAINED CHASER

Cumbrian Challenge looks good value

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

THERE is no profit in the obvious, according to the sages of the betting ring. Maybe, but those looking to pick the winner of the First National Bank Gold Cup at Ascot today will find it difficult to get away from the claims of Strong Promise, who is a theoretical handicap "good thing".

Beaten by the narrowest margin in the Murphy's Gold Cup last Saturday when 19th out of the handicap, Geoff Hubbard's exciting chaser

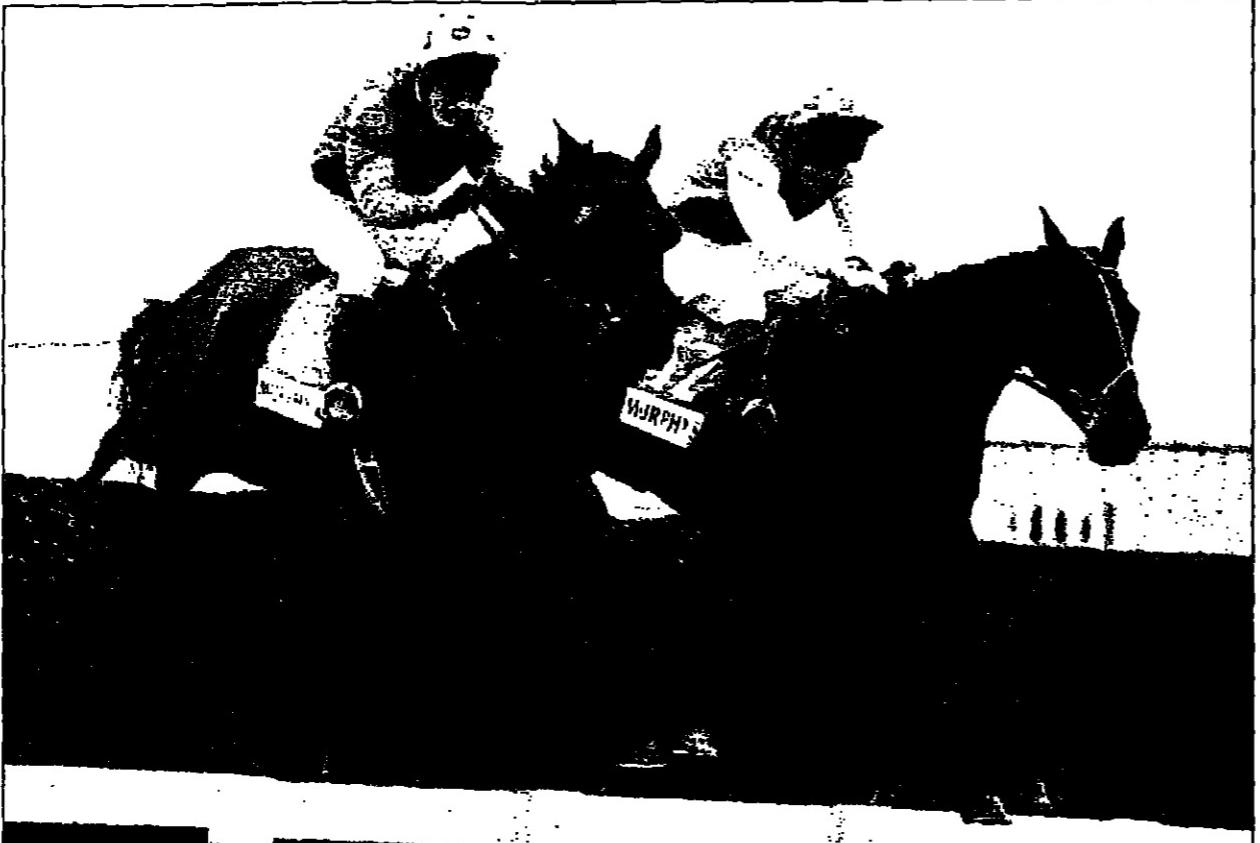
RICHARD EVANS

Nap: DALLY BOY
(3-4) Catterick
Next best: Inchacloch
(1-20 Ascot)

now runs off a handicap mark 20lb below that he will face in the future as a result of his Cheltenham exertions.

I had planned to oppose the five-year-old, as he appeared to have a hard race seven days ago, with Major Summit, who would have been an outstanding bet — until he was withdrawn yesterday by Josh Gifford because of the drying ground at Ascot.

In his absence, it is difficult to find a confident alternative. From the top, Senor El Betruti likes Ascot but looks badly handicapped, and may not be able to dominate with



Strong Promise, right, narrowly beaten by Challenger Du Luc last weekend, attempts to recoup the losses at Ascot today

Major Bell in the field; Bertone is exposed and not good enough, remarks which also apply to Plunder Bay. No Pain No Gain and probably Southampton.

Pimberley Place appeared to show much improved form

behind Absalom's Lady last time, but is a rogue and may not condescend to race. Golden Spinner was a good second to Strong Medicine at Sandown but the winner was well beaten by Strong Promise

at Cheltenham and he makes some way-appeal.

The best option for punters is to leave the race alone and look for easier pickings elsewhere. Sierra Bay, described by Oliver Sherwood as a "serious racehorse", is expect-

ed to make a winning seasonal debut in the opener at Ascot (12-4).

Peter Niven forsakes the lightfoot of Ascot and Aintree in favour of Market Rasen and his journey should be made worthwhile with Aljaide in the Clugston Handicap Chase (150). Mick Easterby's chaser won at the Lincolnshire track in March and ran with credit behind Regal Romper at Wetherby 22 days ago. The form of which has worked out

well for him. He looks a bigger danger than King Lucifer.

Jonjo O'Neill is wasting no time in running Jack Doyle, formerly with Dermot Weld, who showed enough behind Sparky Gayle at Ayr eight days ago to suggest he can win the novice chase (2-10) at Catterick.

On the same card, Dally Boy makes considerable appeal in the Wood House Handicap Hurdle (3-10) now that he tackles three miles for the first time. Tim Easterby's runner stayed on encouragingly behind Burnt Apt at Wetherby. Last season, the four-year-old chased home Edelweiss Du Moulin and Marchant Ming on separate occasions and this drop in class should enable him to open his account this term.

All of Jenny Pitman's runners have benefited from their first run. She looks to have found an ideal opening for the well-regarded Jet Boys in a novice hurdle at Towcester (3-10) after an encouraging seasonal reappearance behind Flying Gunner at Chepstow.

2-30: See left.

ASCOT
THUNDERER
2.30 Strong Promise
3.05 Dream Ride
3.40 LANSDOWNE (nap)

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating:
2.30 STRONG PROMISE.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 12.45 Seventeens Lucky.
1.55 BLURRED (nap), 3.40 Fired Earth.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM
TOT JACKPOT MEETING

12.45 HOLLOWAYS GATE NOVICES HURDLE
(E3.516: 2m 110yds (10 runners))
1. ADDISON (9) John Peters Adams Syndicate D Bearch 4-11-5 ... A Prester 90
2. PP & ROYAL (10) M & S (L) 100% (10) 11-5 ... C Llewellyn 90
3. CARLO BRIGANTE (11) 100% (L) 100% P Webber 4-11-5 ... M A Fitzgerald 90
4. DESERT BRAVE (12) 100% (L) 100% P Doherty 4-11-5 ... R Denney 90
5. RESIDENT (13) 100% (L) 100% P Doherty 4-11-5 ... P Doherty 90
6. RIVER MONARCH (14) 100% (L) 100% P Doherty 4-11-5 ... W Gosselin (7)
7. SEVENTEENS LUCKY (15) 100% (L) 100% Bob Jones 4-11-5 ... V Smith 90
8. STINGER (16) 100% (L) 100% P Doherty 4-11-5 ... A Morris 90
9. THE STAKER (17) 100% (L) 100% P Doherty 4-11-5 ... G Bradley 90
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126. TERRIFIC (134) 100% (L) 100% P Doherty 4-11-5 ...
127. TERRIFIC (135) 100% (L) 100% P Doherty 4-11-5 ...
128. TERRIFIC (136) 100% (L) 100% P Doherty 4-11-5 ...
129. TERRIFIC (137) 100% (L) 100% P Doherty 4-11-5 ...
130. TERRIFIC (138) 100% (L) 100% P Doherty 4-11-5 ...
131. TERRIFIC (139) 100% (L) 100% P Doherty 4-11-5 ...
132. TERRIFIC (140) 100% (L) 100% P Doherty 4-11-5 ...
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134. TERRIFIC (142) 100% (L) 100% P Doherty 4-11-5 ...
135. TERRIFIC (143) 100% (L) 100% P Doherty 4-11-5 ...
136. TERRIFIC (144) 100% (L) 100% P Doherty 4-11-5 ...
137. TERRIFIC (145) 100% (L) 100% P Doherty 4-11-5 ...
138. TERRIFIC (146) 100% (L) 100% P Doherty 4-11-5 ...
139. TERRIFIC (147) 100% (L) 100% P Doherty 4-11-5 ...
140. TERRIFIC (148) 100% (L) 100% P Doherty 4-11-5 ...
141. TERRIFIC (149) 100% (L) 100% P Doherty 4-11-5 ...
142. TERRIFIC (150) 100% (L) 100% P Doherty 4-11-5 ...
143. TERRIFIC (151) 100% (L) 100% P Doherty 4-11-5 ...
144. TERRIFIC (152) 100% (L) 100% P Doherty 4-11-5 ...
145. TERRIFIC (153) 100% (L) 100% P Doherty 4-11-5 ...
146. TERRIFIC (154) 100% (L) 100% P Doherty 4-11-5 ...
147. TERRIFIC (155) 100% (L) 100% P Doherty 4-11-5 ...
148. TERRIFIC (156) 100% (L) 100% P Doherty 4-11-5 ...
149. TERRIFIC (157)

RACING: FAST GROUND LEADS TO MASS EXODUS FROM PRESTIGIOUS CARD

Ascot has withdrawal symptoms

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

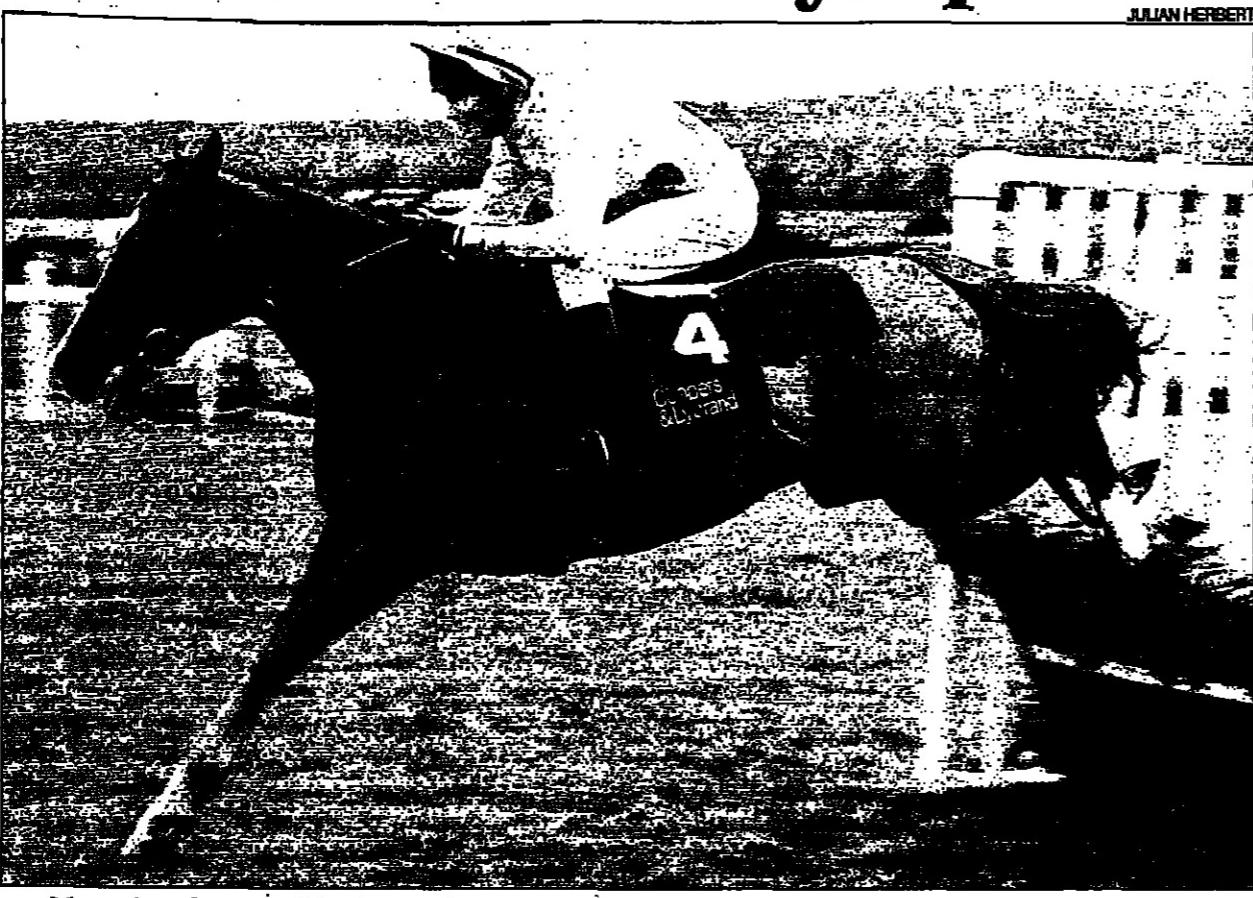
PAYING spectators were brazenly short-changed at Ascot yesterday when 12 of the 45 declared runners were withdrawn on account of fast ground. Insult was added to injury when Castle Sweep and Large Action, the principal attractions in the Coopers & Lybrand Hurdle, both defected from the £25,000-added feature.

Trainers were unanimous in declaring the going good to firm, as opposed to the official "good, good to firm in places". And the difference, while minimal in the going scale, proved enough to precipitate a mass exodus from the six-race card. In addition to Major Summit and King Lucifer, further withdrawals from today's meeting — for which 47 were initially declared — seem inevitable in the event of a dry night.

After the poor turnout at Cheltenham, jump racing has been blighted by poor fields for the second consecutive weekend. However, nearly two inches of rain fell over Ascot in the interim. "When it rained on Tuesday I thought we were guaranteed decent ground over the weekend," Nick Cheyne, Ascot's clerk of the course, said. "I am dumbfounded how the course has absorbed so much water."

Cheyne also sympathised with trainers who elected not to run. "I don't want them running here when the ground is too fast," he said. "I understand their position. It is too early in the season to be taking risks."

Oliver Sherwood, who has nursed Large Action back from a leg injury over the past 12 months, spoke for many colleagues when he que-



Muse takes advantage of the absence of Castle Sweep and Large Action to land Ascot's main hurdle prize yesterday

tioned why the course executive had not watered the course through a dry summer. "It has been difficult for them over the last week. After so much rain on Tuesday you would never expect the ground to be good to firm three days later."

In my opinion, Ascot's turf management over the last two years has been largely dictated by a previous policy of over-watering, which weakened the sward alarmingly. Agronomists at the Sports Turf Research Institute ad-

vised Ascot to overseed the jumps course 18 months ago and refrain from watering in the summer months, encouraging roots to penetrate into the soil for moisture. This left the jumps course short of water, particularly after the dry summer.

David Nicholson, responsible for Castle Sweep, highlighted the dilemma facing trainers. Referring to disappointed racegoers, he said: "It is an awful decision to have to make, but you are never

wrong to take a horse out. It is when they come back jarred up that you have got it wrong."

The Ascot executive, which has recently set great store on customer relations, was doubtless embarrassed as horse after horse was withdrawn yesterday. But in an age when consumers have become extremely selective, the distribution of vouchers reducing admission to the next meeting would have done much to assuage the feeling of disappointment.

Helissio ready for Japan Cup challenge

HELISSIO is likely to start a warm favourite for the £1 million Japan Cup at Tokyo tomorrow, when he attempts to add victory in Japan's biggest race to his success in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. Last month's impressive Arc winner has now won three times by a European-trained runner in the last ten years. Clive Brittain's Jupiter Island won in 1986, Le Glorieux won for France in 1987, and Almanzor struck for Germany last year.

Helissio's preparation at Tokyo racecourse has delighted his French trainer, Eric Lellouche. After a workout yesterday, his jockey, Olivier Peltier, said: "I was very happy. The horse wanted to go and I just let him go as he pleased. The track suited him well."

Peltier is running his last race before retirement to stud in Japan. His trainer, Geoff Wragg, hopes the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes winner can bounce back after disappointing on unsuitably soft ground in the Arc.

His partner, Michael Hills, was delighted with how Peltier worked yesterday. "He went beautifully," he said. "He's calm and ready both physically and mentally." Wragg was pleased with the colt's draw at seven. "I wanted a position that was not too far or out so seven is perfect," he said.

Singspiel, trained by Michael Stoute, who was runner-up to his stable companion, Pilsudski, in the Breeders' Cup Turf last month, and Paul Cole's Strategic Choice complete the British contingent.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kick-off 3.0 unless stated							
—	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
—	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
—	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
—	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
—	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
—	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
—	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
—	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
—	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
—	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
—	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
—	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
—	13	0	0	0	0	0	0
—	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
—	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
—	16	0	0	0	0	0	0
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—	99	0	0	0	0	0	0
—	100	0	0	0	0	0	0
—	101	0	0	0	0	0	0
—	102	0	0	0	0	0	0
—	103	0	0	0	0	0	0
—	104	0	0	0	0	0	

THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

ARSENAL

On form, Arsenal should beat Tottenham, but their heavy three-man defence could have trouble against Anderton and Sinton. Neither team has much craft in midfield, so much will depend on the duel between Ian Wright, Arsenal's opportunist, and the powerful new England centre back, Sol Campbell, of Tottenham. But Sheringham will hardly be as profligate again as he was last week against Sunderland — Arsenal must watch him carefully as he snaps up unconsidered trifles. BG

DERBY COUNTY

Derby could be without Igor Stimac, the club captain, until the new year. The Croatian international defender saw a specialist in London this week, and Jim Smith, the manager, believes that Stimac will have to undergo a hernia operation, keeping him out for six weeks. "We are fearing the worst but at least we are not totally lost without him," Smith said. In the absence of the suspended Stimac, Derby have won their last two games, with Dean Yates deputising magnificently. RH

MANCHESTER UNITED

United are paying the penalty for that stirring performance against Juventus. Ryan Giggs, Ole Gunnar Solskjær and Gary Neville have all joined a lengthening injury list. On Wednesday United were down to four fit defenders, leaving them without a defender on the bench. Today with the loss of both Nevilles, the situation is even worse but it is an opportunity for John O'Kane, who was called back yesterday from Bury, where he has been on loan for a month. PB

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

Their first win since September 2, and David Pleat has to change the side immediately — gallingly, particularly as it is red tape and not injury that forces Reg Blunker out. Scott Oakes will deputise. An alarming decline arrested, the game against Sunderland is nonetheless important because it is between teams likely to be struggling at the wrong end of the table come the season's end. "We have to be looking to pick up points from matches like these," Pleat said, with heavy significance. DM

SUNDERLAND

Peter Reid, the manager, is poised to sign Ronen Harari, an Israel international forward, for £400,000. Harari, 26 and the scorer of 18 goals in 36 internationals, is presently with Beitar Jerusalem. Reid has also had Gary Sundström, a Swedish defender, on trial along with Viktor Leonenko, of the Ukraine. None of them, of course, are eligible to face Sheffield Wednesday at Roker Park today when the less exotic Steve Agnew is likely to return to midfield. LT

ASTON VILLA

Dwight Yorke misses the Midlands derby against Coventry today, because of international duty with Trinidad and Tobago, but perhaps the stage is set for Savo Milosevic to rise from the ashes of his aborted £4.5 million move to Perugia. His Italian job eventually collapsed, even though Villa agreed a ten per cent discount on the original asking price, and he is now back, fit and available. He scored five goals in two games against Coventry last season ... dare Brian Little use him? RK

EVERTON

After their draw at Anfield, extending their unbeaten run to six games, Everton are still on a high. To make things even better for Joe Royle, the manager, his injury list is improving. Another striker is on the way back. Paul Rideout playing for the reserves on Thursday, but Rideout has no illusions about a prompt return. Ferguson may well get back in today — Kanchelskis, who went off with influenza on Wednesday to let Ferguson off the bench, is the main doubt. PB

MIDDLESBROUGH

Emerson, still suspended, will watch the home meeting with Manchester United today from the stands. Having spent the week scowling, everyone wonders if the Brazilian, apparently now staying put at Middlesbrough, might manage a smile. Meanwhile, Bryan Robson, the manager, has declared his determination to rebuild Middlesbrough along the lines of Juventus. Phil Stimpson is fit to return after injury although Nigel Pearson, the captain, is again out with neck trouble. LT

BLACKBURN ROVERS

Nine plead Blackburn, *nein* reply the Premiership. Rovers want special dispensation to allow Chris Sutton to wear the No 9 shirt vacated by Alan Shearer. The Premiership has resisted because it is against the rules to change numbers mid-season. Jack Walker, however, has become involved, and he is hardly a man to mess with. Neither is Graeme Le Saux, who returns after missing the game against Chelsea, when he felt pain from the ankle he shattered a year ago. DM

LEEDS UNITED

Leeds go to Southampton still looking for their first point away from home under George Graham and still waiting for a new signing or three to boost their struggling squad. Graham went abroad during the week in pursuit of players. "It would be lovely to come back and say we've seen a player we really like and sign him," Graham said, "but it doesn't work like that." In the meantime he is waiting to see if Rod Wallace is fit to play against his old club. PB

CHELSEA

Franck Leboeuf should return in defence, possibly to face a returning Alan Shearer, and Gianfranco Zola will make his first home appearance before an expectant crowd. The game will be watched by an Italian coach, Navio Scala, until last summer the manager of Parma, and a possible candidate for the management of the Italy national team. He says that he wants to see his ex-Parma players, Zola and Faustino Asprilla, of Newcastle, in opposition. BG

COVENTRY CITY

Bryan Richardson, the Coventry chairman, has announced a pay freeze at Highfield Road until results pick up. No increase in the lads' basic wages while they continue to hurt towards the Nationwide League first division. Gordon Strachan, the manager, is getting tough, too, as he attempts to stir his overpaid yet underperforming players from their slumber. "Do things my way or there will be changes," he said. Got the message, boys? RK

LIVERPOOL

Previously accused of over-passing, now Liverpool are condemned for not passing enough against Everton. Guilty? Only half-guilty, according to John Barnes. "We never said we over-passed, because you can never pass the ball too much," he said, "but we need to find our passing rhythm against Wimbledon. That's the way to beat them." McManaman is out with a hamstring problem, Collymore will deputise and, according to Roy Evans, will still have a future at Anfield. Sure. DM

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

When Forest were relegated from the Premiership in 1993, they missed the injured Stuart Pearce for much of the run-in. They can ill afford to be without their captain as they try to avoid a repeat. Frank Clark, the manager, said as much when he responded to the suggestion of David Pleat, the Sheffield Wednesday manager, that Pearce, 34, was "on his knees" by the end of the defeat at Hillsborough last Monday. "Stuart remains an inspirational figure for us," Clark said.

SOUTHAMPTON

"One we have to forget," Graeme Souness, the manager, said of the 7-1 defeat at Everton last week. "We know what we did wrong, and we are looking to bounce straight back. We have a lot of making up to do to our fans." Bruised egos would be soothed by beating Leeds, although there are injury doubts about defenders Dryden and Charlton. Omens? In the 1971-72 season, Southampton lost 8-0 at Everton, but beat Leeds 2-1 at The Dell (and went down 7-0 at Elland Road). NS

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

All eyes on Highbury tomorrow for the latest resumption in north London hostilities. The key match-up could be Sol Campbell, Tottenham defender, versus Ian Wright, Arsenal striker — goalstopper against goalscorer, beauty against beast. "Sol's so strong and reads the game so well," Ian Walker, Campbell's colleague, said. "Ian's on a hot streak at the moment but if anyone can stop him, Sol can." Spurs and Arsenal share the best defensive record in the Premiership, but don't bet on 0-0. RK

HOW THEY STAND

	P	pts	Goal	Last five
			diff	age games
1 Newcastle	13	28	+10	WWLWD
2 Liverpool	13	27	+11	LWLWD
3 Arsenal	13	25	+13	WWDDW
4 Wimbledon	13	24	+9	WWDDW
5 Chelsea	13	23	+7	WLWWD
6 Middlesbrough	13	22	+5	WLWW
7 Everton	13	20	+7	WWDDW
8 Tottenham	13	19	-2	WWDDW
9 Sheffield Wed	13	18	-2	WWDDW
10 Aston Villa	13	18	+2	LWLWW
11 Derby	13	17	-4	LWLWW
12 Leicester	13	15	-5	LWLDW
13 West Ham	13	13	-2	DWLDD
14 Southampton	13	13	-5	DWLDD
15 Middlesbrough	13	13	-7	WLWW
16 Sunderland	13	13	-9	DWDOD
17 Leeds	13	13	-10	DWDOD
18 Coventry	13	8	-10	DWDOD
19 Blackburn	13	8	-12	DWLDD
20 Nottingham Forest	13	8	-12	DWLDD

WEST HAM UNITED

Croat opposes Croat for the first time in the Premiership today as Slaven Bilic lines up against Derby and Asanovic. "He is my friend and a quality player," Bilic said. "Our families got together last week. But I think we will win. We are not any more the soft side who plays Mickey Mouse football." Harry Redknapp, the manager, must decide whether to change the side that battled superbly to draw at Newcastle now that Porfirio and Lazaridis are back. Raducioiu and Rowland are at risk. KP

Reports: Brian Glanville, Peter Bell, Russell Kempson, Richard Hobson, Louise Taylor, Nick Szczepanik, Keith Pike, David Maddock. Statistics: Julian Desborough

WIMBLEDON

As Wimbledon head for Anfield, where their record bears comparison with any Joe Kinnear has tasted defeat in only two of 11 meetings with Liverpool as the Wimbledon manager, the rude health of the club as a whole can be judged by the arrival of their reserves at the top of the Avon Insurance Combination. The mainly homegrown second string reflects the success of the club's youth development. The policy is that as few first-team squad members appear as possible. NS

CHELSEA v NEWCASTLE UNITED

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 1-2, 2-2, -, -, -, 1-1, 1-0.

HOW THEY LINE UP

CHELSEA (from): F Gradas, D Petrescu, S Minty, M Duberry, R Leboeuf, C Burley, R Di Matteo, G Zola, D Wise, G Viall, M Hughes, R Gullit, S Clarke, E Newton, F Sinclair, T Phelan, N Colgan.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (from): P Smicer, W Barton, D Peacock, P Albert, J Beresford, R Elliott, C Gillespie, D Barry, R Lee, D Gindola, P Beardsey, F Aspinall, A Shearer, S Watson, L Clark, P Kitson, S Hislop.

MIDDLESBROUGH v MANCHESTER UNITED

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: -, -, 1-0, -, -, -, 1-1, -, -, 0-3.

HOW THEY LINE UP

MIDDLESBROUGH (from): G Walsh, N Cox, G Fleming, S Vickers, P Whelan, D Whyte, R Mustoe, P Stanno, F Raveneau, C Hignett, J Juninho, M Beck, A Moore.

MANCHESTER UNITED (from): P Schmeichel, J O'Kane, D May, R Johnson, G Neville, C Casper, D Beckham, R Keane, N Butt, R Giggs, E Cantona, O G Solskjær, K Poborsky, J Cruyff, B McClaren, M Clegg, R Wallwork, T Cooke, B Thomas, R van der Gouw.

LEADING SCORERS

10: I Wright (Arsenal), F Gradas (Newcastle), F Tiassé (Middlesbrough), S M Le Tissier (Southampton), A Shearer (Newcastle United), 7: L Ferdinand (Newcastle United), A Shearer (Newcastle United), 6: D Yorke (Aston Villa), G Vieira (Chelsea), G Speed (Everton), M Gayle (Wimbledon), R Earle (Wimbledon), E Etuk (Wimbledon), 5: R Fowler (Liverpool), A Booth (Sheffield Wednesday), C Armstrong (Tottenham Hotspur).

COVENTRY CITY v ASTON VILLA

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 0-1, -2-1, 2-1, 1-0, 3-0, D-1, 0-1, 0-3.

HOW THEY LINE UP

COVENTRY CITY (from): S Ogrizovic, R Shaw, D Burrows, P Williams, L Dalziel, P Ndlovu, E Jess, G McAllister, J Salako, D Dublin, N Whelan, K Richardson, J Flan, M Isaacs, D Bowring, W Boland, D Huckerby.

ASTON VILLA (from): M Oakes, F Nelson, A Wright, U Ehiogu, C Tiley, S Staunton, G Southgate, A Townsend, C Currie, T Taylor, M Draper, T Johnson, J Joachim, S Milosevic, G Farrell, R Scimeca, M Rachel.

TOMORROW

ARSENAL v TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 0-0, 2-1, 2-0, 1-0, 0-0, 2-0, 1-3, 1-1, 1-0, 0-0.

HOW THEY LINE UP

ARSENAL (from): J Lukic, L Dixon, A Adams, S Bould, N Winterburn, P Merson, M Keown, D Platini, P Vieira, I Wright, D Bergkamp, L Harper, A Lingard, R Parlour, S Morrow, P Shaw, R Benitez.

TOTTENHAM (from): I Walker, S Carr, C Chalkewood, S Campbell, C Wilson, D Anderson, D Howells, A Nielsen, A Simon, C Armstrong, E Sheringham, R Rosenthal, J Edinburgh, R Allen, S Nehrett.

LEICESTER CITY v EVERTON

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 0-2, -, -, -, -, 2-2, -, -.

HOW THEY LINE UP

LEICESTER CITY (from): J Poole, M Whitlow, J Watts, S Prior, S Walsh, N Lamont, S Taylor, S Clarendon, M Izatt, E Hesketh, G Parker, I Marshall, C Hill, J Lawrence, N Lewis, P Hyde, S Campbell.

EVERTON (from): N Southall, E Barrett, A Hinckiffe, D Unsworth, D Wilson, A Kanchelskis, A Grant, J Parkinson, G Speed, G Stewart, N Barnaby, M Branch, C Short, G Allen, P Gerrard, A Limper.

MONDAY

NOTTINGHAM FOREST v BLACKBURN ROVERS

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: -, -, -, -, 1-3, -, 0-2, 1-5.

HOW THEY LINE UP

SUNDERLAND (from): K Agnew, P Atherton, I Nolan, M Penberthy, D Walker, J Newsome, G Hyde, B Carbuncle, A Booth, O Trustfull, D Stefano, G Whittingham, R Humphreys, S Oakes, O Donaldson, L Briscoe.

SHREFFIELD WEDNESDAY (from): K Pressman, P Atherton, I Nolan, M Penberthy, D Walker, J Newsome, G Hyde, B Carbuncle, A Booth, O Trustfull, D Stefano, G Whittingham, R Humphreys, S Oakes, O Donaldson, L Briscoe.

TOMORROW

ARSENAL v TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 0-0, 2-1, 2-0, 1-0, 0-0, 2-0, 1-3, 1-1, 1-0, 0-0.

HOW THEY LINE UP

ARSENAL (from): J Lukic, L Dixon, A Adams, S Bould, N Winterburn, P Merson, M Keown, D Platini, P Vieira, I Wright, D Bergkamp, L Harper, A Lingard, R Parlour, S Morrow, P Shaw, R Benitez.

TOTTENHAM (from): I Walker, S Carr, C Chalkewood, S Campbell, C Wilson, D Anderson, D Howells, A Nielsen, A Simon, C Armstrong, E Sheringham, R Rosenthal, J Edinburgh, R Allen, S Nehrett.

MONDAY

NOTTINGHAM FOREST v BLACKBURN ROVERS

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: -, -, -, -, 1-3, -, 0-2, 1-

FOOTBALL

Nevilles put Ferguson in defensive dilemma

BY PETER BALL

AFTER Vialli, Bokšić, after Bokšić, Ravanelli — present and former Juventus strikers are lining up to face Manchester United at the moment. This afternoon it is Ravanelli's turn as United travel to the Riverside Stadium with a seriously under-strength defence.

They are also without Solskjær and Giggs from the side that tested Juventus on Wednesday, Solskjær injuring his knee and Giggs twisting an ankle in their efforts. But the loss of Gary Neville, who joins his brother with a hamstring injury, means that they have four defenders missing injured.

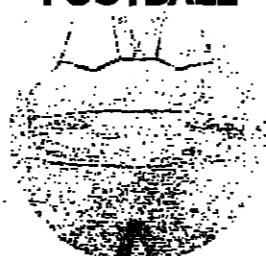
"I'm all right in midfield and up front," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said yesterday. "I've got plenty of options — Poborsky and Jordi Cruyff can come in, and Ben Thornley, but it's at the back."

John O'Kane, the latest graduate of the great youth team of Beckham, Scholes, Butt and the Nevilles, has been recalled from his loan at Bury, where he made quite a mark, and he will make his full debut at left back. "I'll have to think about who plays at right back," Ferguson said. One answer may be to play Keanie as one of a back three, with Beckham filling his recent England role as a wing-back.

With their progress in Europe now on a knife-edge, United need to keep winning in the FA Carling Premiership. Their first visit to the Riverside Stadium was a memorable one, their win giving them the Premiership on the last day of last season. "We only needed to draw then," Ferguson pointed out. Middleborough also did not have Ravanelli then, although Emerson's suspension will not help the home side, who have taken only two points from their past seven games. With a Coca-Cola Cup-tie against

Analyst in the right position to cure back problems

MARK LAWRENSON

THE FACE OF FOOTBALL

By Andrew Longmore

The man who could bring the coveted FA Carling Premiership title to Newcastle United will not be playing at Stamford Bridge today nor, in case you are thinking of Alan Shearer, will he play for the rest of the season. Mark Lawrenson would not presume to have such influence himself. "Just tinkering" he calls his new role as Newcastle's defensive co-ordinator. But if Lawrenson can tighten a bolt here and there, hammer in a few rivets from his own distinguished career, Newcastle's leaky tide ship will begin to look as watertight as a Tyne-built tanker.

Kevin Keegan, the manager, used a different analogy when tempting Lawrenson out of his pundit's armchair. "Kevin said: 'Mark, we've put the roof on, the support walls are up, but I ain't so sure about the foundations.' That's a good way of looking at it," Lawrenson spoke to Keegan on the day Newcastle beat Manchester United 5-0. "To be honest, I would have said 'yes' there and then, but I thought about it for a couple of days. He rang me on Tuesday and told him a) you don't need me, and b) I'd better come."

And that was that. Lawrenson was back on board, almost six years after he had left Peterborough United for the easy life of the analyst on BBC Radio 5 Live ("You're right there, Ron")



Lawrenson, right, has brought his defensive nous to Keegan's attacking side

and Sky television. His expertise will not be completely lost to listeners and it has helped the transition that Vic Wakeling, head of Sky Sport, was brought up at St James' Park. "He was delighted for me," Lawrenson said. "He said there would still be a job for me the day after they sacked me."

The other problem was how the team would react. Lawrenson's reputation as one of the most accomplished defenders in the league was not much use ten years on. All the Newcastle players had to judge him by the harsh words of that despised breed, the footballer-turned-critic. "I'd given them some stick for

losing the league last season and I thought I could be in for some uncomfortable moments, but the players have been as good as gold," he said. "They want to learn. They've had a summer of people telling them what a great side they were but they should have won the league and they want to put that right."

David Ginola: "Look, if you run back ten yards now, you can save yourself running back 50 yards later." He doesn't have to tackle anyone, just make it difficult for them to get past. We can defend. That's not a problem. It's the timing of the defending."

In Metz on Tuesday, Lawrenson's steady hand was evident as Newcastle, without Shearer and Ferdinand, reverted to a workman-like four at the back and left only Asprilla up front. But for Srnicek's mistake, Newcastle would have come away with a clean sheet. Playing the role of Keegan's guilty conscience is part of Lawrenson's job, but the pair have already ac-

knowledged that, sooner or later, the roundhead and cavalier will clash.

The potential battleground is not hard to spot either. Philippe Albert, so elegant going forward, such a liability when he does so; a gambler's defender, a coach's nightmare. Lawrenson, who feels defending is an art in limbo rather than lost, sees the Belgian as a prototype, strong in the tackle, comfortable on the ball, the sort of defender England will start producing when the subtle changes in the rules and the influence of gifted foreign strikers have seeped through.

"Philippe can defend," Lawrenson said. "No problem. It's easy for him and when he just does that defensive job he's outstanding. Then the trumpets come out and he's off. Tally ho. I've said to him: 'That's alright when we're winning 4-0, but when it's tight, you've got to be disciplined.' He knows it."

But what of Lawrenson himself, all those cold mornings on the training ground, the forgotten tensions of winning and losing? His elo-

'We can defend. That's not a problem. It's the timing of the defending'

quence and wit had ensured a comfortable future behind the microphone, where you cannot lose games. "There are not many jobs I'd have come back for," he said. "I never looked for one. But I missed the fresh air and the banter. It's good to get the buzz back."

Besides, Lawrenson's appointment completes a neat footballing circle. Keegan claims Lawrenson put him out of the game. "He was playing for Newcastle at Anfield and a ball was knocked in," Lawrenson said. "He had about five yards start and I caught him in about ten. He apparently came in to the dressing-room afterwards, threw his boots down and told the manager it was time to pack in. Good judge."

"I didn't tell him till later that as he was 32 and I was 26, I'd have packed in if I couldn't beat him over ten yards." Thirteen years on, the pair are still at it on the five-a-side pitch. "He plays, but he's finished," Lawrenson said. "You know when people keep telling you how great they are, you know they're finished."

Jansher in successful defence of world title

JANSHER KHAN'S march into the record books continued yesterday when he advanced his world open championship total to eight titles by defeating Rodney Eyles, of Australia. 15-13, 17-15, 11-15, 15-3 in a 71-minute final in Karachi.

Jansher, of Pakistan, was taking another step towards his ambition of overthrowing the achievement of his compatriot, Jahangir Khan, by winning ten world opens. "I want to play on until I am about 32," Jansher, 27, said. "I hope to end up with 11 or 12 world open wins."

Scotland second

Golf: Ernie Els and Wayne Westner, of South Africa, both birdied the final hole on the second day of the World Cup of Golf at Somerset West, South Africa, yesterday to lead Scotland by one stroke. Denmark and France are joint-third, four strokes further back. Paul Lawrie, of Scotland, shares top spot in the individual standings with Bernhard Langer.

Hill joins Havant

Hockey: Robert Hill, Great Britain's top scorer with six goals at the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona, has rejoined Havant, who are bottom of the National League premier division after ten defeats in succession. Havant are at home to Surbiton tomorrow.

Britain level

Tennis: Megan Miller beat Karin Ptaszek 6-0, 1-6, 6-3 to give Britain a 1-0 lead over Denmark in the first division of the European women's team championship at Barkingside, Essex, yesterday. However, Denmark drew level when Sam Smith lost 3-6, 7-6, 7-6 to Sofie Albinus.

Prean ruled out

Table tennis: Carl Prean, the England No 2, was forced to withdraw from the French open championships in Lyons yesterday because of a wrist injury. Prean was out for six months after having surgery to correct a similar injury three years ago.

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THE TIMES

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**TENNIS 50**

Kafelnikov falls short of final summit

SPORT

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23 1996

London stages the main events as Shearer gets back on his feet

Wenger worried by cheap imports

By ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

LONDON is burning, at last, with ambition to bring football's prizes south, rather than to be the city that charges its customers the most for watching their games. Today, Chelsea have the baptism at the Bridge of Gianfranco Zola to match the return for Newcastle United of Alan Shearer, back on his £15 million feet so soon after major surgery.

Tomorrow, the north London derby pits Arsenal, third in the FA Carling Premiership, against Tottenham Hotspur, who are eighth. This time their intense rivalry has come second to the fact that these two clubs, each of which has lost only once in more than a month, intend to play and buy their way into Europe.

Nor should one forget Wimbledon's capacity to travel north to Anfield and with the audacity to match their shoe-string wiles, to hold back the Liverpool surge to regain the championship. That leaves only West Ham United out of the top sphere, but West Ham bring Europe to London every week, albeit from the cheap side of the European bargain counters.

What is fascinating about all this is that the capital,

Arsenal," he observed. "But for me the danger facing your football is that English players could become outnumbered in the best clubs by foreigners. I'm not the best person to speak, because I am foreign. But the financial situation is against English players. Every manager will tell you that, in the Premiership, English players cost too much compared to talents from the Continent. The salaries are the same, but the transfer fees are exaggerated. If, for example, Alan Shearer, who cost £15 million, lived in France, he would, at the end of his contract, be available for nothing."

"It is an incredible situation. It is as if in football the whole of Europe is one, and because England has protected its transfer system, where abroad it has fallen down, the future in, say, ten years' time, could be the best clubs in England playing with seven or eight foreigners ... like Chelsea today."

Looking inward, Wenger acknowledges that he has brought innovation to the Arsenal training, and innovation to himself. "I always played before with a flat four at the back," he said. "But the players I have at Arsenal include three very good, very adaptable centre halves. So we play three at the back, and when people say that I have old players, I prefer the word experienced. I tell you, on my training ground, they are really good technical players, and I think also intelligent, because for men to be winners for ten or even 12 years, as these have been, you cannot achieve that without intelligence."

He plays on words, indeed on words in a language foreign to him. Suggest that he has already enlightened Arsenal with a more creative style, and Wenger responds: "Creative, to me, is scoring goals. We should have enough players to be creative already within the Arsenal squad."

But, surely, he has added to that with Patrick Vieira, a French countryman whose perceptive eye for the through-ball and whose timely runs bring to Arsenal a vision and a beauty lacking in the coarse triumphs of George Graham. "Beauty for me is efficiency, and it's not just making nice movements," the Arsenal manager insists. "Vieira is first an efficient player — the crowd loves him not because he is aesthetic, not because what he does is nice, but because he does the right thing at the right moment."

Wenger, surprised to be asked if there is a gulf between the upstairs of Arsenal's boardroom and the downstairs of the dressing-room, says that he has found only a unity and that, together with the captain, Tony Adams, the board and the staff are enthused with the same ambition.

Tomorrow afternoon, without David Seaman, the goalkeeper, whose rib injury is not a serious fracture but whose pain Wenger declines to try to

mask with injections. Arsenal have what the manager suggests is more than just a derby match. "When I was manager at Monaco and we played Marseilles, the game could be really dirty sometimes. I think personally we

have to concentrate to play well. If the players only think about Tottenham, they lose concentration, lose the tactical plan. As I have said, they are intelligent guys, and I'm relying on that intelligence, on the character that is truly revealed

on the field, to bring the team through an important match, but a match worth three points towards our real ambitions, our aim in the league."

Wenger's instruction will

centre on his phrase: "The

system is the 'man.' Two

hundred years ago, Georges Louis de Buffon, a compatriot, said the style is the man. Wenger has the style and, he hopes, the system."

Shirt row, page 3

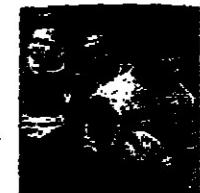
Defensive remedy, page 55



Frozen asset: Shearer, Kevin Keegan's returning £15 million striker, takes a tumble during training yesterday

RUGBY UNION 51

Italy prepare themselves for Twickenham charge



England release Cork from tour of Zimbabwe

By SIMON WILDE

DIVISIONAL officials were last night trying to rebuild the Northern Counties side to play New Zealand Barbarians at Huddersfield tomorrow after the Sale players withdrew from the team at short notice.

First division clubs in the region have supported the divisional concept and Sale officials have emphasised that they continue to do so. However, the players, seeing what was happening around the country and aware that several leading contenders were either injured, suspended or required by England, felt they were over-exposed by the heavy representative programme.

By withdrawing at this stage, however, they have let themselves and the public down. Had they opted out before the North's first match against Queensland last Wednesday, their reasons might have been accepted, but supporters who have already paid their £15 for a match ticket for tomorrow are entitled to feel aggrieved.

"As a result of the North being denied the chance of its best available squad, as a consequence of the stance taken by many English Professional Rugby Union Clubs, the Sale players feel over-exposed and do not wish to jeopardise their priorities — first division rugby and any potential international honours — for the rest of the season," a statement from the players said.

In times past, players might have looked forward to such a challenge and John Spencer, the North's team manager, expressed extreme disappointment at the decision, which coincides with West Hartlepool players being required for an Anglo-Welsh Cup match with Dunvant; Newcastle players have not been released for divisional rugby.

ONLY three days before England's cricketers depart on their 14-week winter assignment, Dominic Cork, their strike bowler, withdrew yesterday from the first leg of the tour to Zimbabwe, for personal reasons. No replacement will be named and it is planned that Cork will join the party in New Zealand early in the new year.

Although the timing of the announcement was hardly ideal for a management team anxious to portray an image of a side single-minded in its intention to improve on a poor playing record in recent years, there was no question of Cork being rebuffed once he had made his request to stay at home. It gained the immediate approval of John Barclay, the tour manager, and Tim Lamb, chief executive of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB).

In a brief statement issued through the TCCB, Cork alluded only to "some personal matters that need to be resolved", but it has been public knowledge for more than two

Australia recover ... page 49
White squares up ... page 49

months that he has separated from his wife, Jane, and it is understood that the future of his two-year-old son, Gregory, is now central to his concerns.

Cork's problems highlight the strain placed on the marriages of sportspeople and the contentious decision of the England management to ban wives and girlfriends from joining players on this tour, which straddles Christmas.

Graham Thorpe is delaying his departure by two days to spend time with his wife, Nicki, and their new-born son, Thorpe, who flew home from South Africa last year when his wife underwent an operation to remove an ectopic pregnancy, will reach Harare next Thursday.

Cork's absence will undermine England's hopes of improving on a woeful Test record away from home, for, although Zimbabwe are of modest ability, their benign home pitches mean wickets need to be worked for. Cork's ability and enthusiasm would have stood England in good stead, giving their attack penetration and verve.

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Blinder banned worldwide in contract dispute

By DAVID MADDOCK

REGI BLINKER, the Sheffield Wednesday winger, has been banned from football worldwide. The decision by Fifa, the world governing body, was taken yesterday as it launched an inquiry into a contract dispute.

Blinder, it is alleged, signed a contract with Udinese in January, agreeing to join the Italian club in June, when his contract with Feyenoord expired. The agreement entitled Udinese to sign him on a free transfer, under the Bosman ruling.

On March 5, however, Blinder signed for Wednesday while still under contract with the Dutch club.

After a fee of £275,000 had been agreed, at the time, Udinese claimed that Blinder had broken his agreement with them, and should be sanctioned. "Apparently a file has been sitting on a desk at Fifa for months, and no action has been taken until now," David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, said yesterday. "They have decided that, until they explore the episode properly, Regi will be banned from the game."

A spokesman for Fifa said that the disciplinary committee had been collecting evidence, and had now decided to ask Blinder for his comments. "We have asked Mr Blinder to forward an explanation by November 27, and he

will be banned until then," he said. "The ban will remain in place until that time and perhaps beyond. We want to find out why contracts have apparently been signed with two different clubs."

Graham Mackrell, the Wednesday secretary, said that his club had been punished unfairly. "Udinese are seeking redress with the player, but it is totally unfair on our club, which has done nothing wrong," he said.

Pleat said that Wednesday had pre-empted Udinese's agreement with Blinder by approaching him before he became a free agent. "Regi had agreed to sign for the Italian club if he became a free agent in the summer, but he

didn't because he signed for us first," he said. "It is all just red tape."

Barcelona yesterday launched a second initiative to sign Emerson, the Brazil midfield player. They contacted Middlesbrough with a plan involving a swap deal with Miguel Angel Nadal, the Spain defender.

Uefa, the European governing body, has called a special disciplinary hearing next week to investigate an alleged incident involving George Weah, the AC Milan striker, after the Champions League match against FC Porto on Wednesday. Jorge Costa, the Porto defender, suffered a broken nose in the incident, which took place in the players' tunnel after the match.

Kohl links his fate to punctual launch of single currency

FROM ROGER BOYES IN FRANKFURT

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, yesterday launched an unusually passionate appeal for a punctual and strictly applied European monetary union and explicitly linked his political future to the success of the euro.

The strongly voiced intervention by the German leader was made at a European banking congress in Frankfurt attended by finance ministers from Italy, Spain, France and Ireland as well as central bankers. It was regarded as an opening move ahead of the Dublin euro summit which is supposed to set the ground rules for a stability pact, keeping in harness the members of the European monetary union even after the national start-up date of 1999.

Herr Kohl left none of his 800 listeners in any doubt that he regarded close European integration as his last great political task. "I am linking my political fate with the construction of the European house," he said, his voice thick with emotion. But his speech broke little new ground on the stability pact nor did he address the problems of admitting financially weak states to EMU for political reasons. "The goal must be that many nations meet the stability criteria and participate from the beginning."

This has been a ritual declaration for two years, designed to show that Germany is not excluding anyone in advance, not striv-

ing for a delay, nor weakening the entry criteria. But the constant repetition of the phrase merely reinforces the popular view that much is being concealed and that true economic debate has been supplanted by theological conviction.

Certainly both Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the Italian Treasury Minister, and Rodrigo de Rato, the Spanish Economics Minister, by emphasising that their countries were healthily on track for monetary union, seemed to put a great deal of faith in miracles.

The question bothering Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank Governor who was also on the podium, is how far the Chancellor is willing to ignore financial facts and depend on a miracle. The country's six leading economic institutions and the five "wise men" advisers have independently concluded that Bonn will fail to meet two of the Maastricht criteria for a single currency: its public debt will be just over the 60 per cent of gross domestic product required by the treaty, and its deficit will substantially above 3 per cent of GDP. But Herr Kohl and his ministersumble forward, reciting that EMU will begin in January 1999, and that a significant number of states, including Germany, will be

that is what makes yesterday's intervention by Wolfgang Franz so significant. Professor Franz is one of the five wise men who advised the Government, and in an article in *Die Zeit* yesterday, he urged the political class to come clean. There were only two real choices facing Germany, he said: to delay EMU or to exploit the interpretative room in the phrasing of the Maastricht treaty.

Will the Chancellor follow the professor's advice? It seems unlikely.

Leading article, page 25

Ex-Scientology leader convicted

FROM SUSAN BELL
IN PARIS

THE former head of the Church of Scientology in France, Jean-Jacques Mazier, was convicted of second-degree murder and fraud yesterday for his role in the suicide of Patrice Viat, a member of the organisation, in 1988.

A court in Lyons sentenced Mazier to three years' prison, of which 18 months were suspended, and a FRF60,000 (£56,000) fine. Thirteen other

members of the church were given suspended sentences varying from eight months to two years for embezzlement, complicity and abuse of confidence. Charges were dropped against ten others, including Danielle Gournord, the organisation's spokesperson, and Jean-Chapelle, formerly head of the Scientologists' internal "police force", both of whom had been charged with being a party to a fraud.

The church's defence lawyer said he would appeal against the court's decision.

judgment as an infringement of religious liberty and a "serious threat to the freedom of conscience for all French citizens".

In heated exchanges during the seven-day trial, the prosecution denounced the "indoctrination" and "mental manipulation" practised by the church, while the defence said that members were victims of indifference and inquisition.

With his tenor voice at a point of near-hysteria and his moustache bristling with indignation, the Civil Guard colonel burst into Congress with 200 soldiers and fired several wild shots in the air with his pistol. "Shut up, everyone!" he screamed, interrupting the confirmation of Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo as Prime Minister. "Hit the deck!" The assembled MPs

were sworn at by the soldiers and humiliated.

Behind the comic opera appearance of the act, with his three-cornered patent leather hat looking always as if it would fall off his head, Tejero's coup attempt was an affair of deadly seriousness. With the memory of General Franco still unpleasantly fresh, Spain was on tenterhooks for several hours, fearful for the survival of its four-year-old democracy.

Tanks were reported to be rolling through Valencia and nobody was sure how the armed forces would react.

Only King Juan Carlos's intervention, firmly opposing the coup in a taut television address, caused the colonel's project for "national salvation" to collapse. Wearing military uniform, the King had said: "The Crown, symbol of the permanence and

unity of the homeland, cannot tolerate the attempt of any persons to interrupt by force the democratic process determined by the Constitution and approved by the Spanish people."

Tejero was sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment for treason. He is unrepentant to this day, saying repeatedly that he "would do the same thing again". He rejects Spain's democratic Constitution because it does not mention the word *Dios* (God), and he is a fierce opponent of regional autonomy.

He earned his remission for "constant good conduct" in jail. He has donated blood every month for 15 years as his "patriotic duty" and has painted more than 500 landscapes, miniatures and portraits. Sources close to his family say he will set up a commercial studio in Madrid. Four years ago, an enthusiastic military judge described his work as displaying great artistic originality. It is not certain how civilian critics, more expert in the arts, will judge Tejero's paintings, but his works are expected to be snapped up by admirers on Spain's far Right.

Now 63, Tejero has been in an open prison for three years, enjoying the right to go home to his family every weekend. Throughout his prison sentence, his military jailers have been accused of giving him preferential treatment. He has always had a suite of rooms, a studio and better food than other prisoners, even enjoying an unending supply of his favourite snack, Spanish omelette. Given his prodigious artistic output in prison, access to the best paints, canvases and brushes can hardly have been a problem either.

Spain's comic opera coup colonel goes home to do some painting

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

THE firebrand colonel from the far Right, whose theatrical coup attempt in 1981 almost snuffed out Spain's young democracy will be freed from jail tomorrow after serving only half of a 30-year sentence. Antonio Tejero Molina is expected to begin a new career as a painter.

Tejero leapt to international notoriety when an incredulous world saw live television pictures of the attempted coup.

Behind the comic opera appearance of the act, with his three-cornered patent leather hat looking always as if it would fall off his head, Tejero's coup attempt was an affair of deadly seriousness. With the memory of General Franco still unpleasantly fresh, Spain was on tenterhooks for several hours, fearful for the survival of its four-year-old democracy.

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the democratic process determined by the Constitution and approved by the Spanish people."

Tejero was sentenced to 30

years' imprisonment for treason. He is unrepentant to this day, saying repeatedly that he "would do the same thing again". He rejects Spain's democratic Constitution because it does not mention the word *Dios* (God), and he is a fierce opponent of regional autonomy.

He earned his remission for "constant good conduct" in jail. He has donated blood every month for 15 years as his "patriotic duty" and has painted more than 500 landscapes, miniatures and portraits. Sources close to his family say he will set up a commercial studio in Madrid. Four years ago, an enthusiastic military judge described his work as displaying great artistic originality. It is not certain how civilian critics, more expert in the arts, will judge Tejero's paintings, but his works are expected to be snapped up by admirers on Spain's far Right.

Now 63, Tejero has been in an open prison for three years, enjoying the right to go home to his family every weekend. Throughout his prison sentence, his military jailers have been accused of giving him preferential treatment. He has always had a suite of rooms, a studio and better food than other prisoners, even enjoying an unending supply of his favourite snack, Spanish omelette. Given his prodigious artistic output in prison, access to the best paints, canvases and brushes can hardly have been a problem either.

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The pistol-wielding Colonel Antonio Tejero Molina takes over the Spanish Congress in the attempted 1981 coup

NEWS IN BRIEF

Warhead material missing

Stockholm: Police at Stockholm's international airport are investigating the disappearance of more than a tonne of a radioactive material used in nuclear warheads.

Interpol and Swedish security police were involved in the search for 2,260lb of beryllium, worth £14 million, that went missing from the freight terminal a year ago.

A tip-off from a lorry driver prompted a search for the material, which was transferred through Arlanda airport after arriving at Stockholm from Tallinn in Estonia by boat. The material should have been prepared in the cargo terminal to be flown to the United States to its buyer in New Jersey, police said. (Reuters)

Teresa rallies

Calcutta: Mother Teresa's doctor said that the 88-year-old nun's condition had improved since she was admitted to hospital on Thursday evening suffering from heart failure. (Reuters)

Out of hiding

Bonn: Christoph Seidler, 38, a suspected Red Army Faction member on the run for 12 years, surrendered to face charges, which he denies, of involvement in the 1989 murder of a German banker. (AP)

Volcano threat

Port Moresby: Papua New Guinea was preparing to evacuate 8,000 residents from Manam island in the Bismarck Sea, 250 miles north of here, after a volcano off the coast started erupting. (AFP)

Café ban ends

Paris: The Hard Rock Café here reopened, two weeks after French authorities closed it after accusing it of importing British beef in defiance of a ban imposed over fears of "mad cow" disease. (Reuters)

Mir the merrier

Moscow: The three-man crew of the Russian Mir space station finally got much-delayed supplies when a cargo craft docked with food, water, fuel and equipment to repair damaged toilets. (Reuters)

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Widow incites Mafia revolt

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THIS widow of a Mafia gangster has turned to God and is appealing to other Mafia women to join her in rebelling against Cosa Nostra and "chase out the Devil".

Donna Filippa — known as Donna Filippa — has been a recluse since the murder in 1981 of her husband Totuccio, a notorious Mafia boss. He was killed together with 20 other family members, including his 16-year-old son, during the 1980 Mafia wars with the dominant Corleone clan led by Salvatore "Toto" Riina, the "boss of bosses", who is serving nine life sentences and faces further charges.

But after a "mystical experience", Donna Filippa has turned what was once a Mafia fortress, a three-storey villa at Passo di Rigano on the outskirts of Palermo, into an open "house of prayer" dominated by images of Christ. She has donated adjoining land to the local parish to build a church.

The police have persuaded about 1,000 male mafiosi to become informers, but almost all Mafia women have remained loyal to the Cosa Nostra, despite high family death tolls.

Announcing her conversion this week, Donna Filippa said: "It is not easy to heal the wounds which have lacerated my heart... but I heard a small voice inside me, and God called me."

She urged other Mafia women to "educate your children in love, break your chains, go back to life and not death".

Donna Filippa said she had forgiven Riina. "His spirit is sick" she said. "He should... repent not only before the magistrates but also before the Lord".

Zaire aid workers tell of 'thousands on brink of death'

BY SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

WESTERN pressure to send a military intervention force to eastern Zaire mounted yesterday, with claims from the leading US refugee agency that "tens of thousands of refugees were on the brink of death" in camps near Bukavu.

Lionel Rosenblatt, president of Refugees International, said in Bukavu there were reports that many refugees had died in makeshift camps, set up when they were driven out of more permanent bases in South Kivu during fighting between their own Rwandan Hutsu militiamen and east Zaire's rebels. "They are increasingly desperate. We have reports of deaths among different groups and we expect the mortality rate to increase," said Mr Rosenblatt.

When Mugunga camp was cleared by rebels ten days ago, 500,000 Hutus returned home, mostly in good health. But refugees in South Kivu are likely to be in a much worse condition because they fled their camps around Bukavu and Uvira nearly a month ago. Their leaders will have stockpiled food but this will have been to feed the Interahamwe (those who kill together), the extremist Hutu militia behind the 1994 genocide of Tutsis and Hutu moderates in Rwanda.

Mr Rosenblatt said in Bukavu: "We can deduce that probably thousands are very near death now. If aid does not come in quickly, and at risk are tens or even hundreds of thousands."

The number of refugees in South Kivu is unknown. But this has not prevented wild speculation from a number of aid groups about how many are at risk. More accurate numbers may soon be revealed by American satellite images of the region. In the meantime, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said in Geneva that "800,000 are missing in South Kivu".

Combined with the 500,000 who have returned to Rwanda, this would bring the total to 200,000 — more than were thought to be in the camps before they were cleared. Eth-

West wrestles with logistics

A meeting in Stuttgart of Western nations planning intervention in Zaire might last all the weekend after it was locked last night in lengthy discussions on options and logistics (Michael Binyon writes).

Lieutenant-General Maurice Baril of Canada, which is co-ordinating the proposed force, said planners expected to have a full range of options by tomorrow night.

Heart of darkness, page 24

EU to renew Nigeria sanctions after deadlock on rights

BY MICHAEL BINION DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

AFTER the failure of the Commonwealth mission to Nigeria to obtain any concessions on human rights and democracy, the European Union is to renew sanctions against the oil-rich country for a further six months.

On Monday, EU foreign ministers will approve a recommendation to continue restrictions on travel by

Nigerian officials as well as an arms embargo and other sanctions imposed in response to the hanging of Ken Saro-Wiwa and other Ogoni activists last year. The general human rights situation and the pace and the manner of the transition to civil democratic rule continue to rise to serious concern," the EU said on Thursday.

The Europeans said "modest steps" in the right direction had not

been enough to lift sanctions. Their move comes after the first mission by a Commonwealth task force to Nigeria failed to obtain reassurances that the military Government of General Sani Abacha would speed its timetable for a return to democracy.

Seven Commonwealth ministers, headed by Stan Mudenge, the Foreign Minister of Zimbabwe, spent two days in Lagos but did not meet General Abacha and were rebuffed

by Tom Ikimi, Nigeria's Foreign Minister. Diplomats said the Nigerians, who insist that the suspension of Commonwealth membership be ended before they enter serious discussions with the action group, adopted a tough line and indicated there would be no change in the programme laid down for a handover to an elected President in 1998.

The Commonwealth group, however, is split between those who want

to take a tough line, such as Britain and Canada, and African members who are unwilling to step up Commonwealth sanctions. The Nigerians insisted at the Abuja talks that the transition programme to democracy was on course, and leaders of registered political parties, as well as traditional rulers, expressed support for General Abacha.

Leading article, page 25

Beauty pageant highlights poverty

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN BANGALORE

THE Miss World beauty pageant in Bangalore, to be watched on television today by more than two billion people in 115 countries, puts the new India on show: liberal, expensive, Westernised and full of imported goods.

The protests by traditionalist Hindus against the pageant are a whimper against the roar of change, the speed of which is creating chaos in the once-timeless villages and unsettling the urban poor, who are exposed to unimagined glamour on newly arrived foreign television programmes.

This has happened in less than five years. Economic reforms since 1991 have increased the divide between rich and poor in the more prosperous states, split roughly along high-caste and low-caste lines. The steady breakdown of caste barriers in northern India — they have long since been eroded in the South — is putting unprecedented strains on a country that traditionally has resisted change.

Bangalore, India's high-technology boomtown, is choking on its own success. Television will show only the glamorous images today; the world will not see the pollution, the beggars, the slums or the crumbling roads. Nor will people be told of the hours of daily power cuts or the shortages of piped water, the scourges of a country that is outgrowing itself.

□ Dozens held: The police rounded up dozens of suspected troublemakers who might try to disrupt the pageant, and put others under surveillance. Nearly 10,000 police officers have been deployed and schools and colleges were ordered closed yesterday and today as a precaution.

The Supreme Court, meanwhile, ruled yesterday that the organisers of the pageant could serve alcoholic drinks at the event. (AP, Reuter)



A woman takes her child to a Bangalore protest against the Miss World contest

Stena Line

Stena Line has added extra sailings to its Dover-Calais route to meet increased demand. The company is now operating a shuttle service of 27 return sailings a day to Calais with a fleet of four ferries and a fast catamaran.

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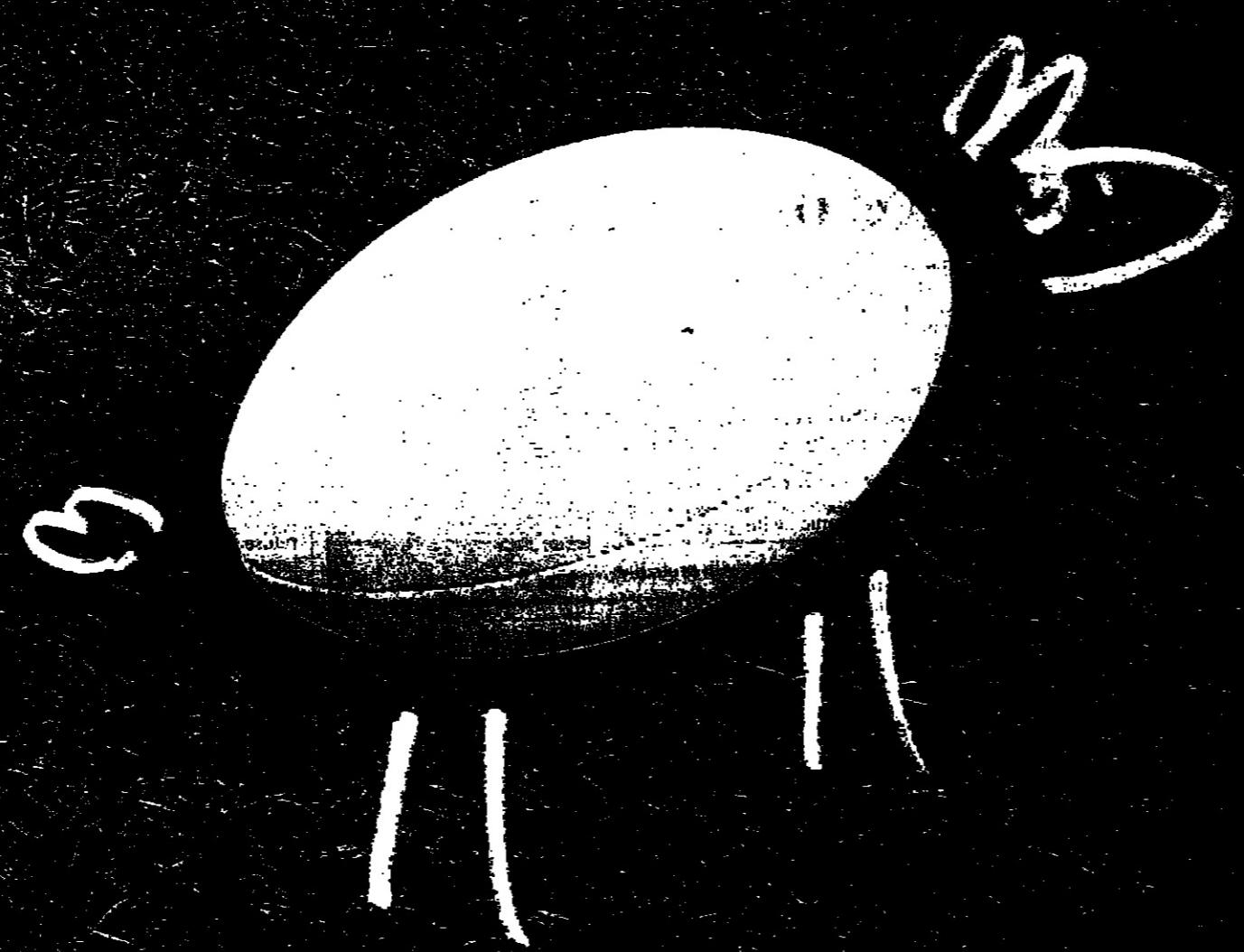
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Dole's successor flexes muscles for tussle with Clinton

FROM BRONWEN MADDOW IN WASHINGTON

THEY now call him the most influential Republican in Washington. Trent Lott, Bob Dole's successor as Senate Majority Leader, is the new gatekeeper of Congress with power that some Republicans argue outstrips that of the President himself. As Mr Clinton wrestles to put together a Cabinet, a budget and a slate of policies for his second term, he knows Mr Lott can probably block any move the Republicans do not endorse.

Since June, when Mr Dole stepped down from the Senate to mount his bid for the presidency, the conservative 55-year-old from Mississippi has been settling into his predecessor's elegant Capitol Hill office overlooking the Mall. Yet, despite a quarter of a century in Congress, he has shunned the limelight so much even his closest congressional allies are unsure how he will wield his power.

He presides over the largest Republican Senate majority since the 1920s and, on some counts, the most conservative Senate since then. The elections three weeks ago narrowed the Republican majority in the House of Representatives and softened its radical-right edge, but increased the Senate majority by two seats to 55-45. For two years the Senate has acted as a moderate brake on the House; it may now be equally

hardline. Mr Lott's influence is also boosted by the more subdued role imposed on Newt Gingrich, the unpopular House Speaker, who is now the subject of an ethics investigation.

During Mr Lott's 16 years in the House and eight in the Senate, he showed a Gingrich-like dislike of high taxes and big government. But, unlike Mr Gingrich, he is known for his skill in brokering deals with both sides, turning on his southern charm when he wants. "He can jab in that stiletto and cut your heart out before you know what's happening because he's smiling all the while", one Democratic Senate aide told *The Baltimore Sun*. Since June, Republicans and Democrats have



Lott: outward southern charm hides a stiletto

been struck by his pragmatism in helping to break the legislative logjam on welfare and the 1997 budget.

However, since Mr Clinton's re-election, Mr Lott has been in uncompromising mood, furious that Democrats appropriated the best Republican themes while portraying their rivals as extremists. On Medicare, the US healthcare system near collapse, Democrats "misrepresented us, lied and demagogued", he argues.

He has told close aides he

plans to imitate the way

George Mitchell, as Democratic Senate Majority Leader,

ruined George Bush's presi-

dency by waiting for Mr Bush

to put forward proposals and

then manipulating Congress

to block them. He wants to

force Mr Clinton to acknowl-

edge publicly that Medicare

will be bankrupt without

hugely unpopular cuts – and

then to suggest those cuts. Mr

Lott has rejected Mr Clinton's

attempt to pass the issue to a

bipartisan commission.

One of the few prominent

politicians untainted by ethi-

cal shadows, he also intends to

hold Mr Clinton's toes in the

fire over fund-raising.

Perhaps wisely, he denies

presidential ambitions. The

wheeler-dealing of a Senate

power-broker is often not a

good platform for a national

campaign, as Mr Dole

discovered.

At Oxford, Outside the House

Mr Dorman routinely dispara-

ged Mr Clinton as a "

womaniser", an "adulterer"

and "disgraced draft-dodger"

who demeaned the office of

President with his "silk girlie-

girlie jogging shorts". Mr

Clinton once remarked: "Ev-

ery time I see Bob Dorman, he

looks like he needs a rabies

shot."

After Mr Dorman grabbed a

fellow congressman by the col-

lar and accused him of being a

"draft-dodging wimp", he ex-

plained somewhat lamely that

he had only been straighten-



Brian Peterson, flanked by his parents Barbara and Brian, on his way to surrendering to charges of murdering his girlfriend's baby

Prosecutors seek death for teenage lovers

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

SOBBING hysterically, a Delaware mother surrendered her only son to law enforcement officers knowing that they want to put him to death.

Barbara Peterson clung desperately to Brian, 18, as they approached the FBI office in the city of Wilmington. The teenager and Amy Grossberg, his school girlfriend, are together charged

with the murder of their newborn son. They allegedly dumped the baby's body in a rubbish skip after Miss Grossberg gave birth in a motel room.

Prosecutors have said they intend to seek the death penalty.

The case became an instant *cause célèbre*. Both suspects are from rich families. When the Peterson family approached the FBI office, they were surrounded by cameras, reporters and spectators who shouted abuse. The

baby died from head trauma and excessive shaking, and investigators believe his killing was premeditated. But supporters of the teenage couple say that they were frightened about how their parents would react and were psychologically disturbed when they delivered the baby without medical assistance.

Class consciousness that most Americans of failings, has been evident. Would the case have created such nationwide debate if the two families had been humdrum, rather than millionaires with large homes and big futures? Observers have criticised Donald Roberts, the state assistant attorney-general, for seeking to make political gain out of the demand for capital punishment. His desire for the death penalty was

announced even before Brian Peter-

son turned himself in, and the Ameri-

can Civil Liberties Union suggested he

was "caught up in the public relations of all this".

Even hardliners are having a diffi-

cult time seeing the duo as toughened

criminals. Commentators have also

asked if America, with its lurid

debates about late-term abortions but

its ambivalence to schoolyard sex, has

sent confusing signals to young people

about the responsibilities of bringing

children into the world.

Brian Peterson, a college freshman,

was a cliché of the all-American boy.

He was good at sports, studied hard,

and had been a child model — tanned

face, straight teeth, blond hair.

Shy and freckled, Amy was reared

in a mock-Tudor mansion, worked in

the holidays as a day-camp counsellor for younger children, and had the makings of a fine teacher. The couple started dating when they were 14, and everyone seemed to approve.

Miss Grossberg, who was arrested soon after the discovery of her baby's body, was treated in hospital for post-natal complications while her boyfriend was still at large. A police hunt was mounted for him, and his photograph was broadcast nationwide. Brian Peterson finally turned himself in after anguished discussions with his parents.

The Civil Liberties Union said that it was "inconceivable" that the young couple could be executed, but as Brian Peterson took his last free steps to the FBI office, onlookers shouted: "Baby killer! May you fry!"

'B1 Bob' says he was cheated of Congress seat

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON

IN KEEPING with his fiery reputation, Bob Dorman refused to go either quietly or gracefully yesterday.

Rather, the ultraconservative Republican fumed that he had been cheated out of his seat after 18 years in Congress by a Mexican-American businesswoman he denounced as a liar. Loretta Sanchez, who has never held office, appeared to have captured the Democrats' biggest scalp of the American elections. With

only 1,300 late ballots still to be counted, she held a narrow but seemingly insurmountable lead over Mr Dorman in Orange County, once an impregnable Republican stronghold south of Los Angeles.

Congress will be a less confrontational place without Mr Dorman. Last year he lost his speaking privileges in the House of Representatives for a day after refusing to withdraw an accusation from the floor that President Clinton gave

"aid-and comfort-to-the enemy" by taking part in a rally

against the Vietnamese war while



Dorman: fiery reputation

Navy officer 'will fast to death' in protest at discharge for bullying

New York: A Canadian naval officer is in the fourth week of a hunger strike in protest at being court martialled for abusing his crew (Quentin Letts writes).

Lieutenant Dean Marsaw, 40, formerly of the Canadian Navy, is in declining health as he continues to refuse food. He weighs 9st 9lb, having lost 40lb. Marsaw was found guilty last year of bullying his crew and disgraceful behaviour at a Christmas party, where he inserted a

cigar tube in the rectum of a Royal Navy officer who had passed out drunk.

More than 30 witnesses gave evidence against Marsaw at the tribunal, which recommended his discharge after 17 years' service. He was demoted from lieutenant-commander. For the past four weeks, he has taken only fluids in his second hunger strike in a year. "This is my commitment to the honour and integrity of the service, which I believe is being violated

on a far-too-frequent basis," Marsaw said at his home in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. He said he would settle for death rather than surrender his demand for an independent inquiry of his case.

Marsaw's supporters say that his men simply did not like the discipline he imposed and that he was convicted on the flimsiest of evidence.

Marsaw demanded the highest standards, brooked no nonsense, and made plenty of enemies.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE REAL MOLL

She was a whore and a thief... as a new TV costume drama on Moll Flanders approaches, we show what life was really like in her day

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Clinton's take natural break in Australia's far frontier

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN PORT DOUGLAS

THERE are few places more suited to a landmark environmental speech than Port Douglas in far north Queensland, where President Clinton yesterday warned the world of devastating consequences if pollution and climate change continue.

Surrounded by nearly two million acres of rainforest, and with the Great Barrier Reef offshore, north Queensland is one of the most sensitive environments in the world. It is also one of the most blissfully undemanding, where the locals are not so much laid back as horizontal.

How much this is due to the searing temperatures or the intake of residents, who appear to live on an endless supply of ice-cold amber fluid, remains uncertain.

Either way, the ambience of this tropical paradise had clearly worked its spell on the American President. When he and Mrs Clinton alighted from their helicopter at the local sports ground early yesterday, the whole town had turned out to greet them.

Much to everyone's surprise, Mr Clinton decided to thank each and every one of them personally for their welcome. Even *The Times'* correspondent was given a presidential handshake as Mr Clinton spent 20 minutes

slowly walking down a line of about 300 people who had been waiting for his arrival. In terms of VIP visits, Port Douglas had not seen anything like it since Captain Cook drifted along these shores more than 200 years ago.

Apart from a tarred road and hotel accommodation, not much has changed in these parts over the past two centuries, and that is its appeal.

Local tourism promoters could not believe their good fortune when they heard of President Clinton's holiday plans.

Although a moderately popular international destination, Port Douglas still has to struggle with the tyranny of its own remoteness, even from Australia's main cities.

Those who do make the effort discover a region which boasts not one but two World Heritage listed sites, the Daintree rainforest in the north and the Great Barrier Reef in the east.

An estimated 1,500 species of fish live on the reef, which stretches for more than 1,200 miles along the Queensland coast. The rainforest, with 500 varieties of plant and 25 endangered animal species, also offers a rich diversity of flora and fauna.

Mr Clinton and his wife Hillary visited a wildlife park



President Clinton and his wife Hillary cradle a koala, named Chelsea after their daughter, on a visit to the Daintree rainforest yesterday

in the rainforest where the President cradled Chelsea, a nine-month-old koala named after their daughter.

"Most people only see pictures of koalas ... I had no idea they were so soft," he said.

Asked by one reporter what she thought of having a "critter" named after her 16-year-old daughter, Mrs Clinton smiled. "We called her [Chelsea]

sea] this morning and told her we were going to see her namesake," Mr Clinton said.

As the Clintons strolled through the park, a ranger answered their questions about Australia's marsupials, at one stage telling the President that large red kangaroos would tower over him.

While both Clintons patted the friendly kangaroos, only the President hand-fed the

animals compressed grain pellets from a paper bag. At Port Douglas' main pub, the Courthouse Hotel, where only real men dare to drink, the tropical wonders on the doorstep rarely excite the regulars.

When Mr Clinton drove by, most of those at the public bar raised their glasses. "Come in for a beer," shouted one.

But the world's most powerful man had a date with a

snorkel. The Clintons spent about an hour snorkelling at the reef, an experience that the President described as "unforgettable".

The Clintons, accompanied by what a spokeswoman

would only describe as "a lot" of Secret Service agents, went to a site about 30 miles off the coast and swam above the coral and brightly coloured fish.

Map of Port Douglas area:

100 miles
AUSTRALIA
Coral Sea
Cape York Peninsula
Port Douglas
Queensland

President proposes pact on pollution

Port Douglas: President Clinton yesterday called for a global agreement aimed at ridding the earth of environmental pollution (Roger Maynard writes).

In a landmark speech delivered against the backdrop of Australia's Great Barrier Reef — one of the world's most sensitive marine environments — the US leader called on the community of nations to agree to a legally binding commitment to fight climate change.

And he gave a warning that if the world did not take heed, the consequences could be disastrous. The call was deeply embarrassing for the Australian Government, which has fought against the introduction of such an agreement.

Mr Clinton told several hundred in this north Queensland resort that pollution of the environment not only affected health and quality of life, but also posed a serious threat to peace. If

the world let it continue unabated, "the consequences will be nothing less than devastating for the children here and their children", he said.

The President said that new weather patterns would spread infectious diseases, damage economies and raise sea levels. He was speaking at the climax of a four-day working holiday before next week's Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum summit in Manila.

Manila: When President Clinton and President Jiang Zemin of China meet here tomorrow, it will be a long way from Mr Clinton's nomination speech four years ago when he spoke of "the butchers of Peking" (Jonathan Mirsky writes).

Mr Jiang will have every right to feel that, although the issues that divide the two countries remain, America has abandoned its threats of sanctions in favour of what Warren Christopher, Secretary of State, nearly called a "partnership" two days ago.

The meeting between Mr Clinton and Mr Jiang will take place during the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum summit here. Mr Christopher has been seeking to ensure that tomorrow's

meeting goes so well that the two leaders will announce an exchange of presidential visits in the new year.

After three years' of trying to batter Peking with threats unless China improved its human rights record and stopped pirating American copyrights, Mr Clinton went over to a policy of "constructive engagement".

Tasmania mass killer smirks as he is jailed for life

BY ROGER MAYNARD

THERE were calls yesterday for the restoration of the death penalty as the curtain fell on one of the darkest episodes in Australian criminal history. Martin Bryant, the mass murderer, was sentenced to life imprisonment with no prospect of parole.

Almost seven months after he ran amok with a semi-automatic rifle at Port Arthur in Tasmania, the 29-year-old killer, described by the judge as a pathetic social misfit, smirked as he stood in the dock at Hobart Supreme Court.

Relations of the 35 victims looked on in shock and anger as Bryant, who pleaded guilty to 72 charges, appeared unaffected by the sentence.

Carolyn Longton, whose daughter, Sarah, 15, was shot dead by Bryant, demanded a national debate on capital punishment.

They can look at making it retrospective to 28 April 1996 because our lives have been destroyed. That man has had seven months more life than my daughter and the other 34 victims had," she said.

Another survivor, Pamela Sloane, also supported the death penalty for Bryant.

Judge William Cox, Tasmania's Chief Justice, said it was difficult to imagine a more chilling catalogue of crime. "His selection of victims was indiscriminate ... he killed individual family members, married couples and, in one case, all the members of one family save the bereaved father left to mourn," he said.

But he added that because Bryant was so grossly disturbed, he also deserved a degree of "understanding and pity".

He said: "I have no reason to fear that he will remain indefinitely as disturbed and insensitive as he was when planning and executing the crimes of which he now stands convicted."

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Russians make a song and dance about silver wedding of their favourite singer

Capitalist crooner's star turn

TO STUNNED passers-by the scene looked like the opening shot of a new film by Francis Ford Coppola, award-winning director of *The Godfather*. Hundreds of Russian celebrities, political heavyweights and millionaire businessmen stood in line to pay their respects to one of the country's most loved and controversial entertainers at a ballroom in a central Moscow hotel.

As their valuable gifts were whisked away by security men for safekeeping, the head of Moscow State Circus upstaged other guests by arriving with a present of a horse that walked nervously on to the dance floor to the crowd's delight.

Josif Kobzon, 59, often compared to Frank Sinatra as much for his crooner's

MOSCOW FILE

by RICHARD BEESTON

voice as his alleged mob connections, beamed broadly at the show of loyalty and affection on his silver wedding anniversary. Hollywood could not have done better.

The occasion illustrated how far the performer had come from humble Jewish roots, through fame in the 1960s as the country's favourite singer, to his role today as a powerful player in big business and politics. Over the past five years, Mr Kobzon has become one of

Moscow's leading entrepreneurs with interests from sportswear outlets to hotels.

Last year, however, his small empire looked vulnerable after his controversial underworld ties threatened his reputation and ability to operate. The scandal erupted when the US Embassy in Moscow turned down his visa application after the FBI cited his close links with Vyacheslav (Yaponchik) Ivankov, the godfather of Russian organised crime in America on racketeering charges.

Mr Kobzon has consistently denied the allegations, although he did confirm he had perfectly innocent contacts with Mr Ivankov before the latter's arrest.

Whatever the truth, the former stage star may yet be poised for his greatest role. Certainly the famous have not shunned him. At his lavish party earlier this month, the guest list included Yuri Luzhkov, the powerful Mayor of Moscow, General Aleksandr Rutskoi, the former Vice-President, and celebrities such as Ilya Glazunov, the artist.

This week he announced he had been appointed "cultural adviser" to Mr Luzhkov, regarded by many as a strong contender for the Kremlin leadership. Russians do not seem dismayed by the American criticism, which may have boosted his reputation back home.

Bureaucrats face taxing time

RUSSIA'S top bureaucrats, accustomed to chauffeur-driven cars and state dashes among the perks of office, are on the receiving end of a Kremlin crackdown for the first time in years.

In a desperate effort to raise taxes, the authorities have turned on their own ranks. President Yeltsin has ordered that every public employee should de-

clare his full earnings to the Temporary Emergency Commission, whose initials in Russian are the same as the Soviet Union's secret police.

The first victim was Vadim Kisin, a deputy minister responsible for ties with CIS nations, who was sacked this week for not paying his taxes. Other heads are expected to roll.



Josif Kobzon, whose singing voice has been compared to Frank Sinatra's

American may have betrayed spy for Britain

DURING the Cold War, the CIA liked to blame its British counterpart for the string of dramatic intelligence setbacks caused by Soviet double agents in MI6. Now the roles are being reversed.

This week's arrest of the CIA's Harold Nicholson has added to suspicions that he betrayed a British spy seized earlier this year in Moscow. Platon Obukhov, a middle-ranking Russian diplomat, was recruited by British intelligence in Norway in the early 1990s. He worked at the North American department of the Russian Foreign Ministry and much of the material he relayed would have been seen by the Americans.

He was under surveillance by Russian counter-intelligence for weeks before his arrest in April. The row led to the fit-for-tat expulsion of four British and Russian diplomats, although no satisfactory explanation was given as to how he was exposed. Now British intelligence will want to know exactly what information was passed on.

In 1994, Aldrich Ames, another CIA agent working for the Russians, was arrested in Washington. His treachery led to the death of ten Western agents, and exposed British intelligence's highest-placed spy in Moscow, Oleg Gordievsky.

Russia wins compromise on Belarus referendum

BY RICHARD BEESTON

RUSSIA secured stunning last-minute compromise yesterday between the Belarus parliament and President Lukashenko, which denied the authoritarian leader's tough image but left him well placed to augment his powers in the new year.

A Russian mediation team led by Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, secured a deal which defused the power struggle between the legislature and the executive. Under the compromise, the parliament agreed to withdraw an impeachment petition against the President while in return Mr Lukashenko accepted that his planned referendum to-

morrow should not be binding. The referendum, which is expected to be passed easily, called for the President's term to be extended and his powers increased.

"This is a very important step. In simple terms, it marks an end to the confrontation that the Belarus people have been waiting for," an exhausted Mr Chernomyrdin said.

There was much speculation in Minsk over how the Russian Prime Minister had persuaded President Lukashenko to back down on the referendum after days of defiant speeches by the Belarus leader who had vowed never to compromise. Some people

Republic where bloodshed and misery ruled

BY MICHAEL BINION
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BELARUS has changed its boundaries at least three times this century. Indeed, throughout history, this flat, featureless land between Poland and Russia has been invaded, conquered and ruled in turn by all the present neighbours of Belarus.

When the country reluctantly declared independence on the break-up of the Soviet Union, it had little history and no national tradition on which to base the new state.

Of all the former Soviet republics, Belarus was the most Russified: Belarusian is little more than a dialect of Russian, and in most main cities, especially the capital, Minsk, Russian has become the standard language.

Belarus also has the bloodiest

history in the region. It was the main area where Russian Jews were confined in what was called the "pale of settlement" during Tsarist times, and saw some of the worst pogroms during the government-inspired anti-Semitic riots of the 1890s, when thousands of Jews emigrated.

Many fled to America and Britain and Jewish shops and establishments bearing the

name Minsk became common in New York. Nevertheless, before the Second World War almost 40 per cent of the population of Minsk was Jewish. Most were murdered during the three-year occupation of the capital by the Germans.

The Second World War took a heavy toll. Belarus lost a quarter of its population, a higher percentage than any other republic. More than 100

villages were burnt to the ground. During the onslaught in 1941 and the Soviet counter-attack in 1944, Minsk was almost completely destroyed: when it was rebuilt by Stalin it was an archetypal Soviet city, with monumental neo-classical buildings in the centre.

A second devastating blow struck Belarus, as the republic was then called, in 1986, when the Chernobyl nuclear

reactor exploded. The wind blew the radioactive fallout north, and Belorussia was heavily contaminated. Huge tracts of land were poisoned: thousands received dangerous doses of radiation: agriculture was devastated.

In the past decade, hundreds of people, including children, have developed cancers. The disaster has cost the struggling economy millions of pounds.

Minsk was poised for a moment of glory immediately after the break-up of the Soviet Union when it was selected as the headquarters of the Commonwealth of Independent States. However, the CIS has never got off the ground, no proper secretariat was developed, and although several meetings have been held in Minsk, the city plays no role in the post-Soviet community.



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■ OPINION

Swinging with Kula Shaker, or almost: the quest for 'the coolest city on the planet'



■ THEATRE

The cultural confusions of an Anglo-Pakistani family offer ripe material for the fine East is East

THE ARTS



■ ON MONDAY

The Victoria and Albert Museum displays its silver treasures in five newly restored galleries



■ NEXT WEEK
Alec McCowen in *The Cherry Orchard*, and all the other top shows, reviewed daily in *The Times*

The Prime Minister said it. London really is "the coolest city on the planet". Our fashions, music, theatres and artists are the envy of the world. Our food is tastier than Paris's, our women prettier, our cabbies wittier, our footballers crazier, our parties glitzier. What's cool here today is hot in Manhattan tomorrow. London has the Buzz — that indefinable tingle which says "the time is now, the place is here".

There's just one problem. I seem to have missed out on the whole cool thing. I have lived in London for years and never yet rubbed shoulders with Gary Rhodes at the deli counter in the Neasden Tesco. Nor danced till dawn with exotic damsels called Tara or Tamara. I was too young for the Swinging Sixties, too frivolous for the Serious Seventies, too mean for the Excessive Eighties. Now I am too staid for the Noisy Nineties. The Buzz is passing me by.

So I have taken action. This week I made a determined effort to discover Cool London. If John Major can find it — to say nothing

of the several dozen glossy American magazines, proclaiming "Cool Britannia" to be swinging like the proverbial pendulum do — then so can I. This is what happened:

Monday: Crawl out of bed, reach for slippers. But hang on there! Does ultra-cool Stephen Daldry wear slippers? Start as you mean to continue, you radical dude: breakfast in bare feet!

Kitchen floor very cold. "Why are you making that silly noise?" my wife asks, irritably. "My teeth are chattering because I'm cool," I reply. "And if you don't mind, we'll listen to Radio 1 this morning, not the Today programme."

"Don't be ridiculous, you're 42 years old," my wife retorts. "Go and put your socks on immediately. You're unbearable when you catch a cold."

Not a good start to my Week of Being Cool.

I take the Tube north to Camden

Tuesday: More setbacks. "Hey, how's it to be in *Today's* list of the 200 Hottest Dates?" a friend shouts across the office. Heads turn towards me. Thank heavens I am wearing my new pullover, purchased at a shop not far from trendy Covent Garden. "Er, I don't really know," I stammer. "You never will!" he roars, and everybody has a good laugh.

I decide to leave the office early and mingle with a more sophisticated crowd. "I am leaving early to go clubbing in Camden Town," I announce at 5pm. "I may be in a little late tomorrow, and have a huge hangover. That's the kind of hangover guy I am."

"If you say so," says another colleague. Supercilious prat! I won't invite him when I have John Galiano, Noel Gallagher and other cool people round for a dinner party.

Town. There is a signal failure at King's Cross. We spend 40 minutes stationary in the tunnel. An ideal chance to sample the views of Londoners about the "zeit for life" that Mr Major has so correctly identified in our capital.

"It's a cool scene in London, isn't it?" I remark to a woman squashed against my arm. She doesn't reply, but her expression of fierce joy tells me that she shares my sentiment.

How I wish Mr Major had been with us for those 40 minutes; it was the ultimate Cool Britannia experience! Hyde Park, 1968 ... Old Street Station, 1996 — only a great city supplies such communal excitement, and then perhaps only once in each generation.

Wednesday: The entire Tube network breaks down. Cool, or what? Only London offers anarchy on this scale. Perhaps I shall suggest to Jarvis Cocker — when I next see him in Camden Town — that he writes one of his whimsical songs about it.

Thursday: I try my new cool persona in my local Hendon pub. "Yo! How them hanging, big boy?"

new respect; few fathers have such easy familiarity with teenage parlance.

"Do you mean wicked?" asks my 11-year-old daughter, clearly destined for a career as something pedantic in *The Times* sub-editing department. "I guess so," I say.

"Boyzone are wicked," she announces.

I visit a record shop. "The latest Boyzone, please," I tell the assistant. He gives me an odd look. "Don't get much call for that from people your age," he says. "For your daughter, is it?"

"Impudent fellow! "No," I reply. "It's for me. This is Swinging Nineties London, you know. We are all cool now. The Prime Minister says so."

Tomorrow I shall give Boyzone a spin, and perhaps have a few trendy neighbours round to discuss meaning and metaphor in the work of Damien Hirst. But tonight I shall visit the Wigmore Hall and listen to obscure chamber music. Being cool is hard work. I need some light relief.

I say, chaps, if it's chillin', I'm willin'

THEATRE

East is East
Theatre Upstairs/
Ambassadors

So East is East and West is West, and never the twain shall meet till Earth and Sky stand presently at God's great judgment seat? Well, the two have met increasingly often in this country, sometimes even within the same person's veins. As several plays have already shown, the predicament of the British-born Asian is tough enough. But when one person comes from Pakistan and the other's origins are all-Lancastrian, the conflicts in the living room are likely to be more immediate, intense and dramatic.

So Ayub Khan-Din's fine first play manages to prove, but with warmth and humour as well as anxiety and dismay. In a sometimes darkish second half, Nadim Sawalha's George Khan actually turns on his "disobedient" wife, Linda Bassett's Ella, and punches her in a display of Islamic macho. But the overall tone is as much defined by the play's comic opening, in which George belatedly discovers that the youngest of their six children has never been circumcised, and the boy locks himself in the coalshed in self-protective panic.

But that's just one example of the cultural confusions that afflict all the characters in what is, it emerges, 1970s Salford. The eldest son, told to make an arranged marriage,

arks he thinks will conceal him from the world.

There are questions to be asked. Shouldn't George cut a more intimidating figure? Well, Sawalha's build and body-language could be more imposing. Would someone so obsessed with Pakistan's culture and violent current affairs have married an Englishwoman? There, Sawalha is more plausible. He comes across as perverse, unselfknowing and eccentric. He also lets you see that behind the chauvinism and the posturing is a man unhappily floundering in an alien country.

Khan-Din has a gift both for sympathetic characterisation and for sharp, abrasive dialogue. He is a real discovery, but he is also lucky that the Tamsa Theatre Company is producing his work. Kristine Landon-Smith, its founder, gets nice performances in all departments, from Bassett's brassy, resilient Ella, to Zita Sattar as their cheerfully Anglicised daughter, squirming in an unaccustomed sari. Unsurprisingly, you will have difficulty getting one of the few seats at the Royal Court's current place of exile, to the Theatre Royal, Stratford East. A trip through the winter cold would be well worth it.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

has left home for a place George regards as almost worse than the Hell he keeps invoking: a hairdressing salon in Eccles. Now the next two boys, Paul Bazely's earnest Abdul and Jimi Mistry's slick Tariq, are threatened with the same fate. What are they to do — alienate their father and make trouble for their supportive mother, or follow orders they find bizarre?

Their dilemma culminates in a hilarious climax in which (don't ask me why) their prospective father-in-law, a smoky master-butcher with rigidly puritan views, ends up with a model vagina on his lap. But it also brings out genuine contradictions. Tariq flaunts a Beale haircut and derides his father as "the Paki", yet cannot quite disown his Eastern identity. Abdul seems weaker, more willing to compromise, yet cuts a surprisingly sturdy figure at the end. Meanwhile, their youngest brother, Imran Ali's Saif, is showing symptoms of clinical disturbance, cloaked as he permanently is in a grubby

parka he thinks will conceal him from the world.

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BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Nadim Sawalha and Linda Bassett in Ayub Khan-Din's fine first play, *East is East*.

I shout at the barman as I enter. "Patsy and Liam been in yet?" "I suppose you want your usual lemonade shandy?" he replies in an unnecessarily sardonic tone. Nevertheless, I persist. "What's going down, tonight, bro?" I say, with a cool, postmodern wink. The barman is transfixed by my intense attitude. "There's a Gaelic football on the big screen, or there's darts," he replies finally. "I'm afraid Kula Shaker have already gone on to a gig in Cofindale."

Ah, the cut and thrust of cockney repartee! No wonder that top New York magazine writers descend on London every week. They don't find dialogue like this in Greenwich Village.

Friday: Getting slightly desperate about this cool thing. Decide to consult my children. "Hey guys, what's cool?" I say casually at breakfast. They look at me with

Sneak preview of the next big thing

RSNO/Oramo

Aberdeen

WHEN the Royal Scottish National Orchestra booked Sakari Oramo it thought it was engaging a young, little-known and newly appointed co-principal conductor of the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra. True enough — but, as it has since turned out, it was also engaging the future principal conductor of the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

While applauding the RSNO's enterprise in taking on a guest conductor of such limited experience — even taking into account his career as a violinist and his brief spell as an orchestral leader — one can only marvel at the CBSO's decision to entrust to him not only its future but also, in a sense, its illustrious recent past. But neither orchestra was wrong: Oramo is clearly going to let anyone down.

Of course, they will find him quite different from Simon Rattle. Oramo is studious rather than charismatic, serious rather than effervescent, classically correct rather than brilliant in technique, helpful rather than inspiring.

But he is not dull. He is among that small proportion of conductors who actually create a performance as it happens, rather than merely preside over what they have rehearsed. He anticipates every event and makes sure that it happens both precisely on time and with due emphasis.

The problem for a conductor in an accelerated situation like his is developing a repertoire wide enough to meet his

rapidly multiplying commitments. But the virtues of structural clarity and textural balance — the outstanding characteristics of his concert of mainly Finnish music with the RSNO in Aberdeen — are universal. So is the ability to unfold a large-scale single movement like that of Sibelius's Seventh Symphony, allowing the structure to grow in its own time but without shrinking back at any point and, equally, without exaggerating its high-profile features.

If the same composer's *Tapiola* sounded undercharacterised in the Aberdeen Music Hall, where it would have been worth risking a little clarity for an equivalent gain in poesy, the presentation of Jooni Karjalainen's *Symphony of Dreams* was totally engaging in terms of both rhythmic wit and orchestral colour.

The other encouraging aspect of the concert was the quality of Oramo's partnership with Arina Alexeyev in the Grieg Piano Concerto. Always responsive to the impulses of a provocatively spontaneous soloist, he secured from the RSNO a sound almost as glamorous as that produced by the pianist herself.

GERALD LARNER

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In search of the heart of darkness

What horrors await us in the Congo?

Richard West on an old nightmare

The refugee crisis in Zaire, Rwanda and Burundi, and the prospect of Western intervention, have coincided with an outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus in Johannesburg, reportedly carried from Gabon in equatorial Africa. This juxtaposition is bound to revive the dread of mysterious illnesses from countries surrounding the Congo basin. Last year an outbreak of Ebola in Zaire killed 246 of 350 infected people. The latest travel book by the naturalist Redmond O'Hanlon, *Congo Journey*, and a recent Hollywood film with Dustin Hoffman, *Outbreak*, both deal with deadly diseases from this part of Africa, sometimes apparently spread by apes.

O'Hanlon, who had survived almost unscathed his expeditions to the jungles of Borneo and Brazil, is struck down almost immediately by a lethal strain of malaria, only days after arriving in Brazzaville, the city across the river from Kinshasa in Zaire. He makes our flesh creep with the suggestion that the malaria mosquito may also carry the AIDS virus, so common in this part of Africa. At present it is normally passed by bites from the bedbugs that infest Congo mattresses.

"When someone picks you up to bury you, they get it, too. No vaccine, no cure"

Before leaving his home in Oxford, O'Hanlon was told by a doctor at the John Radcliffe Hospital: "The Congo is very interesting. It's the HIV and HIV 2 overlap zone. If only you could send us some fresh blood samples, I'd be most grateful." The intrepid O'Hanlon is undeterred by scare stories that AIDS may have spread to human beings from monkeys or apes in this part of Africa. He gambols with chimpanzees, and nurses a baby gorilla before depositing it in John Aspinall's Animal Orphanage in Brazzaville.

However, even O'Hanlon writes with horrified awe of the Congo region's Ebola virus: "You get a headache. You get a fever. Your immune system gives up. Your cells fill with replicating virus and sprout threads like hairs. You haemorrhage and clot at the same time. Your skin goes pulpy. Your guts fill with blood. You leak blood from your eyes, nose, mouth and anus. You die and your body melts, liquefies, turns to slime. When someone picks you up to bury you, they get it, too. No vaccine, no cure."

Such are the symptoms of the killer disease in *Outbreak*, a Hollywood film which has been widely shown in Britain. A US Army medical team, under a colonel played by Dustin Hoffman, is flown to Central Africa to see the effects of a mysterious plague. One doctor is so appalled by the suffering of a victim that he vomits inside his protective mask. Before the team leaves Africa, we catch a glimpse of a trapper not snaring a monkey, which then is illegally shipped to America and sold to a small-town petshop. The animal coughs or spits its lethal virus on to a number of human beings, who then spread it around in a cinema and airport, until the United States is gripped by an epidemic.

In the chair

LECTURERS at the London School of Economics believe that a new director for the college where Mick Jagger received tutelage has been chosen. After a two-year search, they say that the LSE has settled on Professor Anthony Giddens, Professor of Sociology at the Faculty of Economics and Politics at King's College, Cambridge.



The Government spends £350 million a year on management consultants. But is it wasted money?

Gurus of greed are not bad for business

Simon Jenkins

The top shelf of an airport bookshelf offers two prophylactics to the male libido. One is nubile and sealed inside a plastic bag. The other has no defence against idle hands. It is the business manual. Making money may be less photogenic than making love, but both are bestsellers. King Greed is as potent as King Sex.

These gurus have much in common. Among recent business titles I like *The Naked Manager*, *Lean and Mean*, *Awaken the Giant Within*, *Unlimited Power*. Sometimes the come-on is crude: *The Way to Win*, *The One-Minute Manager*, *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*. Others are pleasantly post-coital: *Downdraft Recycled*, *Living with Uncertainty and Foresight*.

They all lead the eye back and forth along the shelf, from better sex to a fatter wallet. And they sell. Greed books turned over \$750 million (£500 million) in America last year. The guru Tom Peters, whose latest manual is called *The Pursuit of Wow*, charges \$60,000 a seminar.

I have read little of this stuff, but two journalists on *The Economist* have now relieved me of any guilt. *The Witch Doctors* by John Micklethwait and Adrian Wooldridge is a gem of debunking. It will comfort and encourage all who have been "let go", downsized or re-engineered, delayed or outsourced, hounded or 360-degree assessed.

The book is devastating. British Government now spends more than £350 million a year on management advice. Nobody has shown that a penny is well-spent, not least the "serial fad-surfers" in the police and prison services.

The authors are relentless. No

advice changes its mind more often than management theory. Each craze that sweeps the business schools one year is overturned the next. No sooner does Drucker declare that the worker is sovereign than Peters declares the customer is sovereign and Boesky declares the stockholder is sovereign. Hammer and Champy's hugely influential *Re-engineering the Corporation* — "Don't automate,

Obliterate" — told firms to worry about costs not markets, and threw hundreds of thousands out of work. Most re-engineered companies saw a brief surge in their share price, huge executive bonuses, plummeting morale and their best workers gone. Sorry, said the gurus, we meant the opposite. You should slim gently and concentrate on consensual delaying through intuitive management to maximise core competence.

These fads streak like meteors above the corporate jungle. Middle-managers are abused and ditched for being an obstacle to change. Then they are revived as vital agents of continuity. Non-core services are outsourced and their staff fired. Then Total Quality Management insists they return. Strategic planning is essential, then useless. The modern firm must diversify, merge with competitors and go global. Then it must retrench and concentrate on its unique competitive strength. One

minute the cry is, "Think chaos... reward failure... Don't manage, lead." The next it is respect the customer and see management as a "group learning exercise".

Management theory is not strong among British public utility executives. Public sectors have seized on management theory, but usually to increase the "performance pay" of bosses and to help officials avoid tough decisions. Governments on both sides of the Atlantic suffer from acute "lag lag". They are reinventing government just when business has stopped re-engineering the corporation.

The NHS, the BBC and the Army are wrapping themselves in management jargon to persuade the public they offer value for money (as a prelude to demanding more).

My initial reaction to Micklethwait and Wooldridge is, hold on. All infant disciplines have their charlatans. But

most of these gurus are like state-

This is all like the doctors in *The Madness of King George*. They squabble over leeches and blisters, wield lancets, bleed veins and send in their bills. The one thing they refuse to do is leave the patient alone. I tried to discern from this book what is currently "in". Theorists are apparently now against globalisation. Super-mergers are failing to yield synergy, more often just egotistical leadership, bad decisions and failing profits. For every firm that is seeking a merger, two are de-merging. Specialisation is back, exploiting the competitive strength of states (thanks

to another guru, Michael Porter). The

information technology rage of the

1980s is over. The office has been

reinvented, as has the loyalty bonus

and the need for staff with "institutional memory".

Greed is no longer good, except

among British public utility executives.

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tion.

The latest fad to catch my eye is

that of the American, Ichak Adizes.

To him the company is a biological

entity, subject to the same ailments as

the human body. It requires a clear-

thinking head, who will respond

toosycretically to outside stimuli.

Eventually and inevitably, it ages

and decays. I like this metaphor.

There are always firms in trouble,

crying for help. The objective of the

management theorist, like that of the

doctor, is to make the patient well

enough to survive unaided.

Like the doctor, the business con-

sultant is faced with an intellectual

challenge. I see nothing wrong in

seeking to systematise this challenge,

formulate and test general laws and

suggest remedies to the desperate.

This may all be at the stage of

primitive medicine, applying leeches

and hacking off limbs on the battle-

field. Medicine, too, was beset by

quacks. But it too progressed by trial,

error and theory. Today we are glad

that it did. Likewise these witch

doctors are not for shooting.

minute the cry is, "Think chaos... reward failure... Don't manage, lead."

The next it is respect the customer and see management as a "group learning exercise".

Management theory is not strong

among British public utility execu-

tives.

Public sectors have seized on

management theory, but usually to

increase the "performance pay" of

bosss and to help officials avoid

tough decisions. Governments on

both sides of the Atlantic suffer from

acute "lag lag". They are reinventing

government just when business has

stopped re-engineering the corpora-

tion.

The latest fad to catch my eye is

that of the American, Ichak Adizes.

To him the company is a biological

entity, subject to the same ailments as

the human body. It requires a clear-

thinking head, who will respond

toosycretically to outside stimuli.

Eventually and inevitably, it ages

and decays. I like this metaphor.

There are always firms in trouble,

crying for help. The objective of the

management theorist, like that of the

doctor, is to make the patient well

enough to survive unaided.

Like the doctor, the business con-

sultant is faced with an intellectual

challenge. I see nothing wrong in

seeking to systematise this challenge,

formulate and test general laws and

suggest remedies to the desperate.

This may all be at the stage of

primitive medicine, applying leeches

and hacking off limbs on the battle-

field. Medicine, too, was beset by

quacks. But it too progressed by trial,

error and theory. Today we are glad

that it did. Likewise these witch

doctors are not for shooting.



The Panthéon in Paris: its crypt is the resting place of Voltaire, Victor Hugo and now André Malraux

usually reserved for sovereigns and military leaders".

Once again the pediment of the building bore, as it still does, the inscription in gold letters "Aux grands hommes la patrie reconnaît".

But in the Panthéon one is more conscious of the absence than the presence of France's great men.

Apart from Hugo, the only great writer there is Zola, and none of France's great artists or musicians is buried there. The only warrior of note is Marshal Lannes.

Among politicians Gambetta is the pre-eminent figure; in 1920 his heart

was placed in the Panthéon under a suitably expansive monument. Clemenceau chose to be buried in his native Vendée. De Gaulle, a son of the Church, is buried at Colombey.

Mitterrand, imitative of de Gaulle to the end, is also buried in a country churchyard. The only President of the Republic is Sadi Carnot (whose assassination by a fanatic is his chief claim to distinction).

A few admirable scientists and inventors are to be found in the Panthéon. The names of Braille and Marie Curie stand out — the latter particularly, as one of the very few women to have joined the regiment of "grands hommes". (though only last year). The ashes of Condorcet were brought there in 1989, nearly two centuries after his death. Among others recently Panthéonised: Jean Monnet, architect of the European Union, deserves honourable mention (though some would disagree).

The tombs are all in the crypt. At ground level the interior is a soulless empty expanse, relieved only by Léon Foucault's remarkable clock, with its pendulum hanging from the lantern in the dome and rotating slowly as the Earth turns beneath it.

The Panthéon lacks the numinous atmosphere of buildings in which religious worship occurs. By comparison, Westminster Abbey and even St Paul's are spiritually warm and uplifting. They also contain a far more inclusive representation of the people who have made our history.

Richard West is the author of *Brazza* of the Congo. Exploration and Exploitation in French Equatorial Africa.

John Grigg is a former lecturer in the Department of African Studies at the University of Bristol.

He is currently a visiting fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London.

He is also a visiting fellow at the Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, University of London.

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FAITH IN THE DOME

Time for the Millennium Exhibition to meet the people

The Millennium maestros are suffering an anxiety attack. A vast exhibition, on the so far vague, flat and general theme of "time", is planned to mark the year 2000 in Greenwich. Little is yet known in detail of what visitors will see under the shallow dome to be erected on the wasteland that was this week relinquished by British Gas. The budget for the project will not be released until next month. Labour's Shadow Heritage Secretary, Jack Cunningham, worried that a future Labour government would face a wasteful financial disaster, has fired a warning shot to ministers. Anonymous soothsayers predict that costs will surge and that the exhibition bills could reach £1 billion.

Dr Cunningham is right to be concerned. The Millennium show is certainly at the most vulnerable stage. For various reasons – not all of its own making – it is stuck in a dark trough. A privately run one-year exhibition cannot get guaranteed private money without assurance of government support. A future government would inevitably like prior evidence of private-sector confidence. The private-sector companies would like evidence of popular confidence. The public would like to know more about what the scheme fully justifies worry; but it does not justify thoughts of abandoning the project.

The total budget to be announced shortly seems unlikely to go above £750 million. The only "public" money in that sum will be £200 million from the National Lottery. The legal and company infrastructure for the project has only just been bolted together; agreement for the sale of the land by British Gas has been unnecessarily protracted. Preliminary clean-up work on the site is on schedule. The new Tube station which will serve the exhibition has already been built. Discussion continues on the vexed issue of whether the exhibition organisers should be allowed a call on lottery funds after the year 2000 to pay residual debts or tidying-up bills. An agreement that the exhibition organisers should continue to enjoy their one-

fifth share of lottery income for at least part of the year 2001 should not be beyond reach as long as the Government consults more fully with Labour than it has in the past.

Each of the pavilions at the Greenwich dome will be designed to represent some aspect of future time. Politicians and businessmen of a nervous disposition might, however, look backwards as well as forwards before succumbing to despair. National extravaganzas are leaps of faith. They can be nothing else: such enterprises are inseparable from risk. They are also indissolubly associated with pessimism confounded by events. Preparations for the ultimately successful Great Exhibition of 1851 were not attended by rising public excitement. Herbert Morrison had to force the plan for the Festival of Britain through a reluctant Cabinet. Not one major newspaper supported the 1951 celebration until almost the moment it began. Scom was poured on the organisational details, ticket costs and the alleged fragility of the Skylon, the tall metal exclamation mark which reached into the air above the capital. By the time the exhibition was over, so was the scepticism.

None of this means that the exhibition planned for 2000 will become the envy of the world. That will depend on whether the "time zones" fire the imagination, strike the sparks of argument and generate the feeling that the enterprise was worthwhile. That is the issue on which the public must eventually trust or fail to trust the organisers. The legal and financial foundations are now laid. The designers of the spectacle must now take the stage and show their potential sponsors and customers more of what they intend to do. Those excited by the building itself – and by the possibility that the dome and auditorium may stand for even longer than a year – should now take to the road and vigorously sell their scheme to doubters. A thrilling and imaginative exhibition, which expressed Britain's self-confidence and skill, would lift spirits, sights and hearts. It is a prize worth fighting for.

PM VERSUS MPs

Major would still be wise to grant Parliament its debate

Had Labour's strategists been asked to design an issue which would unite against this Government the Left and Right, the Eurosceptic and the Europhile, they would have come up with a calculated insult to the dignity of Parliament. MPs, particularly tired and depressed MPs, are notoriously protective of their institution, and nothing annoys them more than seeming affronts to its sovereignty. In the current atmosphere of heightened sensitivity to European issues, John Major's insistence that the Commons should not be allowed to debate the latest proposed regulations on the single currency was always likely to infuriate Members on all sides of the House. Labour has had to do little more than carefully fan the flames.

The scale of the anger clearly caught Downing Street by surprise. What is odd is that Mr Major did not sense this in advance. What is astonishing is that, after the European standing committee voted on Wednesday for a debate, he did not concede one. He is now relying on some quiet weekends in the constituencies, some warnings to Tory rebels from local party chairmen and next week's Budget to clear the air. None of those elements can be wholly relied upon.

This future contains elements of all the worst characteristics of the Major administration: a stubborn determination to resist the inevitable (usually followed by humiliating reversal); a cavalier approach to executive power; a preparedness to put narrow party interests, in this case their desire to concentrate on the economic agenda, above those of Parliament; and a blustering manner born of weakness.

Presumably Mr Major is worried that in a

debate his fragile truce on the single currency with the Chancellor would come under sustained fire from their own backbenchers. Mr Major's wish to shift his position might then be constrained by Mr Clarke, or alternatively, the Chancellor, his pistol clubs, such as the one that I belong to have been placed in an impossible dilemma.

To comply with the requirements of the current Bill, we will have to spend considerable sums. Fortunately, having been around since 1996, our financial affairs are such that we probably can fund the works without resorting to loans, grants and other sources of finance. However, next summer a new government could well bring in further measures that would render all the work carried out to satisfy the current legislation obsolete.

Many clubs may feel that, whilst they can afford to carry out the works on the basis of the number of members who will continue shooting with .22 pistols, they cannot take the risk of investing in such a speculative capital project. If they wait to see how things look after the general election they are likely to fall foul of the regulations now going through Parliament.

Whilst the Government may be congratulating itself on the result of the vote, the reality is that the anti-shooting lobby has won. In order to save clubs from spending large sums of money that they may not have, I suggest that the implementation period for the current legislation takes into account the possibility of a change of government in May.

Yours faithfully,
R. A. PHILLIPS,
c/o Ham and Petersham
Rifle and Pistol Club,
Ham Street, Richmond, Surrey.
November 21.

SHELL SHOCKED

The oil company should wield its influence for good in Nigeria

The failure of the Commonwealth to obtain any assurance from Nigeria that it will release political detainees or speed up a return to democracy is not surprising. General Sani Abacha's military dictatorship has shown complete contempt for world opinion. Its belated acceptance of a seven-man Commonwealth mission this week was a ploy to fool human rights campaigners and destroy the Commonwealth's united stand on sanctions. The team had no access to General Abacha himself, was unable to meet the leading opposition figures and met only intransigence from Tom Ikimi, the Foreign Minister. The response in Europe has been to renew the sanctions against Nigeria for a further six months. But no one should imagine that these are more than pinpricks against the isolated and arrogant junta in Abuja.

The point of these measures is to force more humane behaviour by the Nigerian military towards the impoverished and long-suffering population. Sanctions are always blunt weapons, however, and it is clear that unless they include the one weapon that could cripple Nigeria's economy – an oil embargo – they will not persuade General Abacha to change his treatment of political opponents and human rights activists. Britain argues that an oil embargo is ineffective unless it is enforced by all the main importers of Nigerian crude,

including the United States. And already the Commonwealth line is beginning to crack: while Britain and Canada are ready to step up other sanctions short of an oil embargo, African countries are having second thoughts. Nigeria has skillfully played on these divisions, by the selective release of dissidents and suggestions of favourable oil contracts.

There is, however, one important source of pressure that could help the Ogoni people, the main victims of the military crackdown. Shell, the oil company that has by far the largest concession in Ogoniland, has been widely held responsible for polluting the Ogoni homeland and neglecting the inhabitants whose lives have been ruined by the oil boom. After the hanging of Ken Saro-Wiwa, a campaign was launched to force the multinational to acknowledge its responsibilities and distance itself from the Nigerian Government.

After months of defensive insistence that the parent company could not dictate Shell's Nigerian operations, the Anglo-Dutch concern has changed its stance. Shell now wants to show that it has not colluded with General Abacha. The Ogonis maintain that the company responsible for the bulk of Nigeria's hard currency earnings is still not doing enough. Shell has worked hard to clean up its record as well as the landscape. It should be held to its new words.

Ethical criteria for investment policy

From Sir Alan Muir Wood, FRS, FEng

Sir, May I present an alternative view on "ethical" investment trusts to those quoted by Caroline Merrell in her recent article ("Right environment for green funds" [Weekend Money, November 16]).

Several years ago, on the initiative of a group of New York City pension fund managers, a number of US organisations were vetted as to their policy in relation to the environment and their success in achieving their objectives. Oil companies, for instance, were asked to define and monitor those of their policies designed to avoid major incidents of marine pollution.

Such criteria seem to be less subjective, and to make much more sense, than those cited by Mr Frank Bligh of the Stewardship Fund as being either "positive" ("companies that supply the necessities of life, those that give a high-quality service and benefit to the community, as well as companies that help the environment") or "negative" ("companies which harm the environment, invest in oppressive regimes, exploit the Third World, or are involved with alcohol, nuclear power, gambling or defence").

There is a place for the use of investment to apply pressures for the development and maintenance of high industrial standards in social and environmental matters: but selling of "ethical" investment trusts such as those quoted in your article should be accompanied by a health warning that they are suitable only for total abstainers, pacifists and those prepared to revert to a life-style of energy consumption (directly and indirectly on their behalf) reduced by say 50 per cent.

Policies of this kind would certainly eliminate the private car.

Yours faithfully,

ALAN MUIR WOOD,
Franklands,
Pangbourne, Berkshire.
November 20.

Weekend Money letters, page 45

Firearms Bill

From Mr Richard Phillips

Sir, With the new Bill now almost guaranteed to reach the statute book reports (November 19), rifle and pistol clubs, such as the one that I belong to have been placed in an impossible dilemma.

To comply with the requirements of the current Bill, we will have to spend considerable sums. Fortunately, having been around since 1996, our financial affairs are such that we probably can fund the works without resorting to loans, grants and other sources of finance.

However, next summer a new government could well bring in further measures that would render all the work carried out to satisfy the current legislation obsolete.

He implies that we were one of the agencies calling for troops to Zaire. Save the Children has never called for an armed intervention: indeed we publicly questioned the usefulness of such a force. Our position on the refugee situation has remained consistent. We have always maintained that the only lasting solution is a practical and a political – and not a military – one, which encourages the return of as many refugees as possible to Rwanda. Events over the past few days would seem to bear out the legitimacy of this approach.

Mr Jenkins implies that the needy in other countries will miss out in the fundraising drive for Zaire. Save the Children's commitment is equally resolute, whether an emergency is under the media spotlight or largely forgotten, as in Liberia, Angola or Sudan. And once the media attention has turned away in Central Africa, we will remain – working for lasting practical solutions.

Yours sincerely,
MARK R. BOWDEN,
East Africa Director,
Save the Children (UK),
17 Grove Lane, SES.
November 18.

Select committees

From Sir Kenneth Lewis

Sir, It is reported today that Mrs Diane Blood has been denied the opportunity to have her late husband's baby by those who knew best for us in the Human Fertilisation and Embryo Authority. By contrast, we read in the same issue that abortions have risen nearly 7 per cent following last year's Pill health scare.

It seems a sorry reflection on our attitudes to human life when we are happy to allow people to dispose of babies they don't want, yet not allow someone to have one that is clearly very much wanted.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN THOMAS,
65 Windsor Road, Chobham, Surrey.
November 22.

Time for bed

From Mr David J. Prescott

Sir, An appropriate bedtime for children (letters, November 19)? The Labour Party moralises in vain.

With a general election looming, most of the adult population will soon be yawning long before their off-spring.

Yours faithfully,
D. J. PRESCOTT,
32 Greenwood Avenue,
Bolton-le-Sands, Lancashire.
November 13.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

School league tables under scrutiny

From Mrs Elizabeth Roche

Sir, Rather than seeking to add more information to school performance tables, as Mr David Blunkett suggests (letter, November 20), would it not be more pertinent to inquire what an 11-year-old with a reading age of 9 is doing in a secondary school in the first place? Why not follow the example of those continental countries where annual promotions depend on passing not merely another birthday, but a test which ensures that all those moving up to new classes have successfully completed the work of the old ones?

It is difficult not to feel that facing pupils with work which must inevitably be beyond them from the start, and can only become more so as time goes on, has to be one of the primary causes of teenage disaffection with education in general.

Rescuing those who are clearly out of their depth at an early stage might well result in their reaching a significantly higher level of achievement than they could ever aspire to if left to fall ever further behind. At the same time it might well prove that having a definite goal to aim at each year would have a wonderfully concentrating effect on the minds of the able but less strongly motivated.

It is also tempting to wonder why a child whose reading age is two years ahead of its chronological one is forced to wait till the age of 11 before being permitted to enter a secondary school and, ultimately, whether at least some of the problems besetting education in this country could not be at least partly solved by adopting a less age-dominated approach.

Yours faithfully,

ELIZABETH ROCHE,
31 Siding Fields, Tiverton, Devon.
November 20.

From the Headmaster of Sherborne School

Sir, Once again the Government's league tables of schools are being given much space and publicity in *The Times*. Frustratingly, you continue to use the age cohort as opposed to the year cohort as your base at GCSE level, and despite the fact that the

figures for both these bases are now available for most independent schools and some state schools.

Presented thus, your table shows that only 87 per cent of Sherborne's candidates achieved five or more GCSEs at Grade C or above. This is not true: all Sherborne's candidates achieve that benchmark. The table tends to discriminate against boarding schools where, for many reasons, some candidates are not prepared for GCSE until they are slightly older.

Similarly, at A level your tables are based on total UCAS points and therefore reflect the number of A and AS levels taken. This disadvantages those schools, like Sherborne, who think that they offer a better programme of study, complementary to A level, than the present AS syllabuses. Universities offer places on the basis of A-level grades, not on UCAS points.

Finally, I do wish that more than just lip-service was paid to value added. If you and the Government do want to publish league tables, then please take account of our pastoral care, the work of the chaplaincy, our two orchestras, concert band, swing band, jazz bands, ten annual play productions and the fact that our first four rugby XV's are still undefeated by British opposition.

Yours faithfully,
PETER LAPPING, Headmaster,
Sherborne School, Dorset.

From Dr Julia Matthews

Sir, I have extracted the following data from your Schools Report (November 20): of the 3,908 schools in England showing both 1995 and 1996 percentages of five or more GCSE A-C passes, 35.71 per cent achieved lower results in 1996 than in 1995. In Wales, from 248 schools, the figure is 27.42 per cent.

The suggestion that publication of league tables leads to better results appears not to apply to these schools. Perhaps this could be explained by that well-worn cliché that statistics can be manipulated in many ways?

Yours sincerely,
JULIA MATTHEWS,
50 Sydney Road, Beckenham, Kent.
November 20.

Nigeria visa protest

From Mrs Glenys Kinnock,
MEP for South Wales East
(Socialist Group [Labour])

Sir, It was regrettable that Mr Jan Pronk, the Development Minister of the Netherlands, saw fit to invite Chief Tom Ikimi, the Nigerian Foreign Minister, to attend a seminar in Brussels today.

The Netherlands will take the presidency of the European Union in January and has a fine record on development and human rights issues. It is therefore shocking that such a decision was taken, despite the visa restrictions laid down by the Council of Ministers following the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight Ogoni activists a year ago.

The visa restrictions cover all those closely associated with the military junta in Lagos which was responsible for the executions, and the granting of a visa to Chief Ikimi clearly fits into this category.

At the time of Ken's execution many of us protested at the weakness of the European response. Now, we are outraged that even such mild sanctions can be breached in this way. There can be no justification for this decision. It is an appalling indictment of EU member states who are prepared to give respectability and legitimacy to Abacha's regime.

Yours sincerely,
GLENYS KINNOCK,
European Parliament,
97 rue Belliard,
Brussels B-1047.
November 22.

Effect of strikes

From Dr John Valdimir Price

Sir, Last week and this, postal deliveries in my area of north London have again been disrupted by strikes. When I talked on the telephone to a spokesman for the Communication Workers Union, he seemed to think that strikes do not diminish the number of jobs in an industry.

Has there been any industry in the past thirty years in which the number of jobs has been increased as a result of strikes?

This letter is being faxed to you.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN VALDIMIR PRICE,
8 Clouesley Square, NI.
November 19.

A different ballgame

From Mr Stephen Woodward

Sir, Your report (November 20) on negotiations about eligibility for the Boat Race quotes Oxford's director of rowing as saying: "We are hoping to achieve a level playing field."

Let us hope that no one moves the goal-posts.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN WOODWARD,
Stelling Oast,
Petham, Canterbury, Kent.
November 19.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number – 0171-782 5046.

Keeping the roofs on English homes

From Mr R. F. Moffatt

OBITUARIES

VIRGINIA CHERRILL

Virginia Cherrill, actress, died in Santa Barbara, California, on November 14 aged 88. She was born in Carthage, Illinois, on April 12, 1908.

There are two differing accounts of how Virginia Cherrill first met Charlie Chaplin. One version has it that they shared ringside seats at a boxing match, the other that he spotted her in her bathing costume while she was working as an extra on a seaside shoot. Either way, it was this single encounter which secured her the role of the blind flower-girl in Chaplin's silent classic *City Lights*.

From the time of its 1931 premiere onwards, *City Lights* captivated its audiences. It told the comic yet poignant tale of a tramp – played by Chaplin – who falls in love with a blind flower-girl. She mistakenly believes him to be a millionaire and he, unwilling to disentangle her, battles to find a way to pay for an operation to restore her sight. His efforts land him up in prison.

The film's most memorable scene – that in which the girl, her sight now restored, recognises her benefactor by the touch – is said to have been directed by one American contemporary critic as "the highest moment in movies". Yet Cherrill was not a professional actress and during the shooting of the film she exasperated Chaplin, a perfectionist, with her amateurish lack of dedication. An inveterate partygoer, she would appear on the set in the morning pallid and drawn from the previous evening's revelry. It would take a very careful make-up artist to repair her face for the cameras.

Nor did Cherrill seem a natural actress. An apparently simple 70-second sequence, such as that in which the tramp first buys a flower, took some five days to shoot. Chaplin grew increasingly tense and impatient during the two years it took to make the film. He was worried about the impact sound was making on movies at that time and perhaps frustrated, too, by Cherrill's emotional coolness. He had taken his other leading ladies – Merna Kennedy, Georgia Hale and Edna Purviance – as his lovers, but his relationship with Cherrill remained only professional.



Virginia Cherrill and Charlie Chaplin in *City Lights*, 1931

lander Stewart, before meeting Cary Grant at a film premiere. She married him in 1934, but the marriage lasted barely a year. "He was my favourite actor, not my favourite husband," Cherrill later said. Yet they remained friends throughout most of their lives.

Cherrill decided to travel to England in an attempt to resurrect her floundering career. Cast in two minor thrillers starring James Mason, she was not particularly notable, and the second of these, *Troubled Waters* (1936), was to prove her last film. Cherrill embarked instead upon another matrimonial venture and the life of an international socialite when she married the 9th Earl of Jersey in 1937. It was to prove a slightly more enduring liaison than her previous two and they remained married throughout the Second World War when Cherrill, now Lady Jersey, worked for the American Red Cross. But in 1946 her third marriage was dissolved. Two years later Cherrill

married for a fourth time. She had met Florian Martini, a Polish air ace, during the war when she had become "godmother" to one of the Polish squadrons of the RAF. Together, she and her new husband moved to Santa Barbara, California, where they settled. There she found stability, becoming a figure of the local community, much admired for her charitable work.

Virginia Cherrill is survived by her fourth husband, to whom she remained married for 48 years.

DOUGLAS GUEST

Douglas Guest, Organist and Master of the Choristers at Westminster Abbey, 1963-81, died on November 18 aged 80. He was born on May 9, 1916.

DOUGLAS GUEST was one of the first cathedral organists to see his main role as that of a director of music with a particular interest in the training of the choir. He occupied successively three highly coveted organ lofts – Salisbury, Worcester and Westminster Abbey – and served all three foundations with skill and devotion during a period when high standards were not easily achieved.

The daily round of matins and evensong was often sung with minimal preparation and good singers were not always readily available. However, he never became burdened by this routine, and his wide interests were reflected in his educational work, examining, adjudicating and orchestral conducting.

As a choral director his great enthusiasm lay in the music of the 16th and 17th centuries. The music of Vaughan Williams and Elgar also seemed to strike a particular chord. His reticence as an organist was a matter of temperament and taste rather than any lack of ability. The recordings which he made for EMI at Westminster Abbey in the Great Cathedral Series bear this out. The demanding pedal solo in Bach's Toccata in C required only one take.

Douglas Guest was born in Yorkshire and, when the family moved to Henley-on-Thames, he became a pupil at Reading School. A period at the Royal College of Music followed, 1933-35, and he often broke his journey to London at Windsor to attend rehearsals of St George's Chapel Choir or Sir William Harris. He went up to King's College in 1935 as organ scholar and worked under Boris Ord at a time when the college choir was beginning to assume a high profile.

On the outbreak of war he joined the Royal Artillery and commanded a battery in the D-Day assault force. He was mentioned in dispatches in 1944 and rose to the rank of major. Although he had the bearing and demeanour of a soldier, war certainly left its scars both physically and emotionally.

After the war he was appointed to Bach's *Passions* were given and Guest also directed a stage performance of Purcell's *Fairy Queen*. Uppingham provided an ideal location for settling into the routine of family life which had been made so difficult by the war. He had married Peggy Falconer in 1941 and the second of their two daughters was born in Uppingham.

The move to Salisbury, where he was appointed to succeed his Cambridge friend David Willcocks in 1951, seemed logical. His six years here represented another particularly happy period. The choir was in good shape and was heard regularly on the BBC Third Programme in music by such composers as Tomkins and Dunstable. He conducted the Salisbury Musical Society, directed music at St Mary's School, Calne, sat on the board of (and occasionally conducted) the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. In 1955 he became chairman of the Council of the National Youth Orchestra and retained this position until 1984.

The year 1957 saw him once again succeeding David Willcocks, this time at Worcester. The Three Choirs Festival was an ideal outlet for his musical enthusiasms and he showed a flair for adventurous programming. An early performance of the *War Requiem* which he conducted in 1963 was very well reviewed and the inclusion of Stravinsky's *Canticum Sacrum* in the same festival provided the amateur singers with a stiff challenge.

The challenges of Westminster Abbey, 1963-81, were perhaps rather different, but once again administrative ability was an important virtue. His first task was to plan the musical events associated with the Abbey's celebrations of its 900 years. Among these was a rare liturgical performance of Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, a work very close to his heart.

The huge miscellany of events at the Abbey from royal occasions to memorial services involved having a choir ready and able to cope with any eventuality, often at a moment's notice. Guest undertook these tasks with calm efficiency. Successive generations of choristers held him in great affection and adult singers appreciated his business-like, no-nonsense style, and his unfailingly courteous manner.

He had to tackle the contentious issue of contracts rather than freeholds for the lay vicars and he showed great diplomacy in settling this problem amicably. While in London he also taught at the Royal College of Music, joined the councils of the Royal College of Organists and the Musicians' Benevolent Fund and became chairman of the Elgar Society. The Queen appointed him CVO in 1975 and other marks of recognition included a Lambeth DMus and a Fellowship of the Royal School of Church Music.

Retirement came in 1981 and Douglas Guest enjoyed a quiet life in Gloucestershire, playing occasional rounds of golf and enjoying the company of friends. Fishing trips to Scotland also provided opportunities for family reunions. In his final months, when his sight and his memory were failing, dark memories of the war were still vividly in his mind. He retained a quick sense of humour and was a good raconteur.

He is survived by his wife Peggy and two daughters.

THE HON DAVID HERBERT

The Hon David Herbert, publisher, died from cancer on November 18 aged 69. He was born on January 2, 1927.

DAVID HERBERT was more than a publisher. At various times he had been a schoolmaster, actor, anthologist and even author (under his own imprint). A far cry from the new breed of money-men running today's conglomerates, he was one of the last relics of the age when publishing represented, in Fred Warburg's phrase, "an occupation for gentlemen". He was himself a brother of the 7th Earl of Powis and a son of a distinguished and long-serving Bishop of Norwich. Most of his teenage years were spent in the palace situated just beside the cathedral.

A descendant of the Anglican poet and hymn-writer George Herbert, David Mark Herbert was born in Clapham, south London, and educated at Rugby and Trinity College, Cambridge. At the age of 12 he contracted mumps which left him deaf in one ear and unfit for military service. He read English at Cambridge and, after a brief spell of bookstalling at the Welwyn Department Store, succeeded in joining Penguin Books in 1949.

The founder of Penguin, Allen Lane, was still very much in control and the



common room, when asked by a pupil for a definition of "vulgarity", gave as his succinct reply: "Mr Herbert's car."

Between his periods of teaching at Eton and Christ's Hospital there was a short flirtation with the stage at the Maddermarket Theatre, Norwich. There he met the freelance theatre director James Roose-Evans, who was later to become one of his authors.

Publishing reigned him in 1961. The Rev Timothy (now Lord) Beaumont used part of his fortune to form Studio Vista, with Herbert at first as editorial director and then as chief executive. His brief was to produce books for creative leisure, the theme he invested with all the zest of a creative art publisher. When Beaumont opted for Liberal politics – thereby acquiring his peerage – he sold his publishing interests. For a while Herbert remained with the new American owners of Studio Vista but then left for another art publisher, George Rambert, already part of the Thomson group.

They married three years later. By then he had defected to teaching, first in Spain, then at Eton, later at Christ's Hospital, Horsham; where not all of his colleagues approved of his style. One of its manifestations was ownership of a Nash Metropolitan sports car, coloured turquoise and white. One member of the

members of staff were expected to devote their energies to anything required of them. Accordingly, Herbert became not only an editor but, at different times, also publicity manager, the rep for South Wales and the person who was put in charge of sales. It was at Penguin that he met his wife Brenda Swan, who had joined the company as secretary to the chief editor Eunice Frost in 1952.

They married three years later. By then he had defected to teaching, first in Spain, then at Eton, later at Christ's Hospital, Horsham; where not all of his colleagues approved of his style. One of its manifestations was ownership of a Nash Metropolitan sports car, coloured turquoise and white. One member of the

Herbert Press which was soon to become a seven-day-a-week job for both of them. Their base was at first their home in Belsize Park, then, after 1963, another house in Islington.

The Herbert Press was a proud achievement, sustaining Herbert and his wife over the next ten years. They were careful to keep to a controlled output of twelve or so new titles annually, and these financed entirely from our modest initial capital. One of their winners was Bill Risseboro's *The Story of Western Architecture*. Risseboro was an old boy of Christ's Hospital and had been recommended by one of Herbert's ex-colleagues, the art teacher Nell Todd. Another success was *The Operas of Benjamin Britten*, with Herbert himself as the author. He was also the compiler and editor of many anthologies of verse including one devoted to the work of his ancestor, George Herbert.

In April last year, because neither their son nor daughter wanted to take on the press, the Herberts sold it to the renowned Wavell Wakefield, who was the first wing forward to make it his main business to shadow the opposing stand-off half.

Davy's first game against England in 1926 was one of the most exciting ever played between the two countries. Ireland won by 19 points to 15. Davy had to contend with the renowned Wavell Wakefield, who was the first wing forward to make it his main business to shadow the opposing stand-off half.

Davy was fortunate in his scrum half Mark Suddon, the master of the dummy. In 1929 they scored the two tries that gave Ireland their first ever win at Twickenham. That

match, which was the first of three successive Irish victories over England, was followed by what one report described as "a spate of uninhibited Hibernianism" as cushions were flung around by joyous Irish fans. The event is known as the Twickenham Battle of the Cushions.

The following year, Davy, playing in the centre, scored three tries in the first half against Scotland at Murrayfield. He captained the Irish team in 1933, his last full season. After he retired he took a house in Kildare and rode regularly to hounds.

Eugene O'Donnell Davy was the ninth of ten children of a Tipperary man, the proprietor of several Dublin pubs. He followed his brothers to the Jesuit Day School, Belvedere. That

EUGENE DAVY



Davy meets the future George VI at Twickenham, 1929

where he captained the rugby XV, although he did not then display the exceptional talent that was to emerge later. He took a degree in legal and political science at University College Dublin and played in the college team before moving on to the Lansdowne Club.

Davy worked in his father's business until it was sold off, and then joined his elder brother James as a stockbroker. Theirs was one of the few turns on the Dublin stock exchange that was in what could be described as Catholicon nationalist hands. As a result of Davy's popularity and his brother's business acumen, it grew to become the largest in Ireland. Davy himself remained a member of the exchange for 60 years.

Although neither he nor any

of his family had taken part in the independence movement, Davy stood as a government party candidate for Dail Eireann in the 1932 general election. He was narrowly defeated. His own political instincts were profoundly conservative.

Davy's mother's family boasted Catholic priests in every generation, stretching back to the 18th century, when penal laws against Roman Catholics were in force. He himself was a devout man and gave much of his time to religious and charitable activities. He received a papal knighthood in 1972. He shared the Marian devotion much favoured in the Church at that time and every year took sick pilgrims to Lourdes.

His unceasing piety sometimes evoked wry amusement among the worldly souls who inhabited sporting and financial circles. But he commanded their respect. He was a dignified, gracious and affable man, unspoilt by fame and wealth. After his playing days, Davy maintained his interest in rugby as a coach and administrator. Even in old age he seldom missed an international match; his last outing was at Twickenham in 1995, when he was over 90.

Davy married in 1941 Geraldine Coakley, who predeceased him. He is survived by his three sons and five daughters.

Latest wills

Latest estates include:

Stella Margaret Calvert-Smith, of Purborough, West Sussex, left estate valued at £1,337,313 net.

Lillian Florence Grace Branton, of Cookham Dean, Maidenhead, Berkshire, left estate valued at £1,073,089 net.

Robert Colin Borthwick of Stock, Essex, left estate valued at £992,642 net.

Jacqueline Louise Marie Antonette Marsh, of Chesham Bois, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £1,182,337 net.

Annie Kera Farmsworth, of Bournemouth, left estate valued at £1,248,872 net.

Margaret Mary Clarke, of Great Yarmouth, left estate valued at £1,023,922 net.

Timothy Fraser Jones, of Berwick, Polegate, East Sussex, left estate valued at £4,707,996 net.

Anniversaries

TODAY

BIRTHS: John Wallis, mathematician, Ashford, Kent, 1616; Manuel de Falla, composer, Cadiz, 1876; Boris Karloff, actor, London, 1887.

DEATHS: Perkin Warbeck, pretender to the throne, executed, London, 1499; Thomas Tallis, organist and composer, London, 1585; Hans Willen Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, 1703; Sir Arthur Wing Pinero, dramatist, London, 1934; Andre Malraux, writer and statesman, Paris, 1976.

The River Thames froze, 1434. The first pillar boxes were erected at St Helier, Jersey, 1852.

The meat market at Smithfield opened, London, 1868.

The first episode of *Dr Who* was screened on BBC television, 1963.

TOMORROW

BIRTHS: Baruch Spinoza, philosopher, Amsterdam, 1632; Laurence Sterne, novelist, Clonmel, Co Tipperary, 1713; Grace Darling, heroine of the *Faro Bank* wreck, Bamburgh, Northumberland, 1815; Frances Burnett, novelist and dramatist, Manchester, 1849; Henri Toulouse-Lautrec, painter, Albi, France, 1864; Herbert Sutcliffe, England and Yorkshire cricketer, Pudsey, Yorkshire, 1894.

DEATHS: John Knox, Protestant reformer, Edinburgh, 1572; Sir Hiram Maxim, pioneer of the machine gun, London, 1916; Robert Erskine Childers, Irish nationalist and writer, executed, Dublin, 1922; Freddie Mercury, singer and songwriter, London, 1991.

The River Thames froze, 1434.

MORE DOUBTS ON PILTDOWN MAN

SECOND DISCOVERY SUSPECT

From Our Special Correspondent

The story of the hoax practised upon the world of learning by the faking of a modern ape's jawbone to match the genuine cranium of Piltdown Man was carried a stage further over the weekend.

Dr K. P. Oakley, of the Department of Geology, British Museum (Natural History), who with the help of analysts perfected the tests that uncovered the fraud, stated that "we have other things up our sleeves in connection with Piltdown."

He has established that the second Piltdown Man, as was to be expected, is questionable as the first. Many who began by being sceptical about the association in the first Piltdown Man of a human brain-case with an ape-like jaw and canine tooth were converted to the belief that the association was genuine, and not fortuitous, when in 1915 other remains with the same characteristics were reported to have been found at a second site, reportedly two miles away from the site of the first discovery in 1912.

Two Harvey Oswalds, charged with the assassination of President John Kennedy, was shot dead by Jack Ruby in the underground car park of the Dallas police headquarters, 1963.

Lee Harvey Oswald, charged with the assassination of President John Kennedy, was shot dead by Jack Ruby in the underground car park of the Dallas police headquarters, 1963.

ON THIS DAY

November 23, 1953

Charles Dawson (1864-1916) was an amateur geologist who in 1912 disclosed that he had found a skull of an early man at Piltdown near Lewes, Sussex; it was a discovery accepted as genuine for more than 40 years.

Charles Dawson (

NEWS

Thatcher turns guns on Labour

■ Baroness Thatcher threw a lifeline to John Major in his latest crisis over Europe by delivering a ferocious attack on New Labour and the continuing worldwide threat of socialism.

As Labour and Conservative rebels tightened the screw on Mr Major over his refusal to grant a Commons debate on the single currency, the former Prime Minister dashed the hopes of leading Eurosceptics that she might back their case..... Pages 1, 2, 25

OJ takes the stand again

■ With a packed courtroom hanging on his every word, O.J. Simpson began his long-awaited evidence in his civil hearing yesterday by flatly denying he had ever punched or slapped his former wife, Nicole..... Page 1

Pill control

The Government tightened controls on paracetamol, the painkiller responsible for 30,000 hospital admissions and more than 100 deaths every year..... Page 1

Killed for weapons

Detectives believe Kenneth Speakman, an 84-year-old firearms collector, was murdered by thieves who knew he kept guns in his Kent home..... Page 1

Examiners revolt

Two senior examiners have resigned in a revolt against new guidelines on A-level English, which they claim will penalise candidates for displaying flair and originality..... Page 2

Thin blue line

A police force's decision to place recruitment advertisements in a newspaper for homosexuals has provoked a savage attack from a senior officer who accused the management of being out of touch..... Page 19

Fans see red over football strip

■ Football supporters are angry at the decision to change the design of the England football team's kit in January, a month after many parents will have bought the current replica shirts for their children as Christmas presents..... Page 3

Danger wagon

Eurotunnel is pressing ahead with an order for new freight wagons with even less protection than the ones that burnt out..... Page 9

Boy detained

The 15-year-old boy who planned the gang attack that led to the death of headmaster Philip Lawrence was sentenced to be detained for three years..... Page 11

Major flaw

John Major's famed intelligence system, which helped him to the top of the greasy pole, let him down badly this week..... Page 14

Zaire beckons

Claims of refugees dying is putting pressure on the West to send a force to Zaire..... Page 17

Leader of the pack

Trent Lott, Bob Dole's successor as Senate Majority Leader, is now the most influential Republican in Washington..... Page 19

NATURE NOTES

Catfish (*Hypostomus fimbriatus*)

Has a gargantuan appetite for very small fry and other fish that have had their chips

Mousefish (*Majorella minore*)*** Cod Latin**

Illustration: Alan Brooke

OPINION

Faith in the dome: A thrilling and imaginative exhibition, which expressed Britain's self-confidence and skill, would lift spirits, sights and hearts..... Page 25

PM versus MPs: However irritated he may be by his whips' misjudgment and by Labour's opportunism, the Prime Minister would still be best advised to grant a debate on monetary rules..... Page 25

LETTERS

"Green" investment funds; league tables; roof tiles in Cotswolds; Zaire..... Page 25

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: A fascinating new book on management has some devastating theories..... Page 24

John Griggs: Today Malraux will be buried in the Panthéon, a rather forbidding place which holds the history of the nation..... Page 24

OBITUARIES

Virginia Cherrill: actress; Douglas Guest, organist and Master of the Choristers at Westminster; **The Hon David Herbert:** publisher; Eugene Davy, international rugby player..... Page 27

BUSINESS

HMSO: The Stationery Office, known as Her Majesty's Stationery Office before it was privatised, plans to axe 900 jobs, more than a third of the workforce..... Page 29

British Gas: Thousands of people are failing to receive gas bills as chaos continues to engulf British Gas's billing system..... Page 29

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 64.9 points to close at 4018.7. Sterling's index slipped from 92.9 to 92.5 after a fall from \$1.6892 to \$1.6810 and from DM2.5326 to DM2.5254..... Page 32

SPORT

Cricket: Dominic Cork, England's leading bowler, has withdrawn from the first leg of the winter tour to Zimbabwe..... Page 56

Football: A worldwide ban has been slapped on Regi Blinker, Sheffield Wednesday winger, after a contract dispute..... Page 56

Tennis: Pete Sampras will play Goran Ivanisevic in the ATP semi-finals in Hanover..... Page 50

CARS

The BMW Z3 is a sports car with extra muscle

ARTS

Spirit of the age: "I was too young for the Swinging Sixties, too frivolous for the Serious Seventies, too mean for the Excessive Eighties," Richard Morrison laments. "Now I am too staid for the Noisy Nineties"..... Page 22

Culture confusion: A fine play from the Royal Court, *East is East*, traces the cultural confusions of an Anglo-Pakistani family in 1970s Salford..... Page 22

Hockey in bulk: Manchester stages works of David Hockney... Page 23

SECTION
MAGAZINE

Match of the day: The new Mrs Kennedy..... Page 1
House of fun: Rob Beale has parishioners rolling in the aisles..... Page 2

Weekend

Christmas: Wrapped up in a day..... Page 1



Property: Lure of Northumbria..... Pages 8-11
Travel: Yemen: Japan; skiing..... Pages 17-24

10 15

Win: a trip to Lapland..... Page 3

Meet: Jesse, pop star son of Ronnie..... Page 6



Going out: ... Pages 13-22

TV and radio: Pages 23-50

Food: ... Pages 4-6

Books: ... Pages 7-12

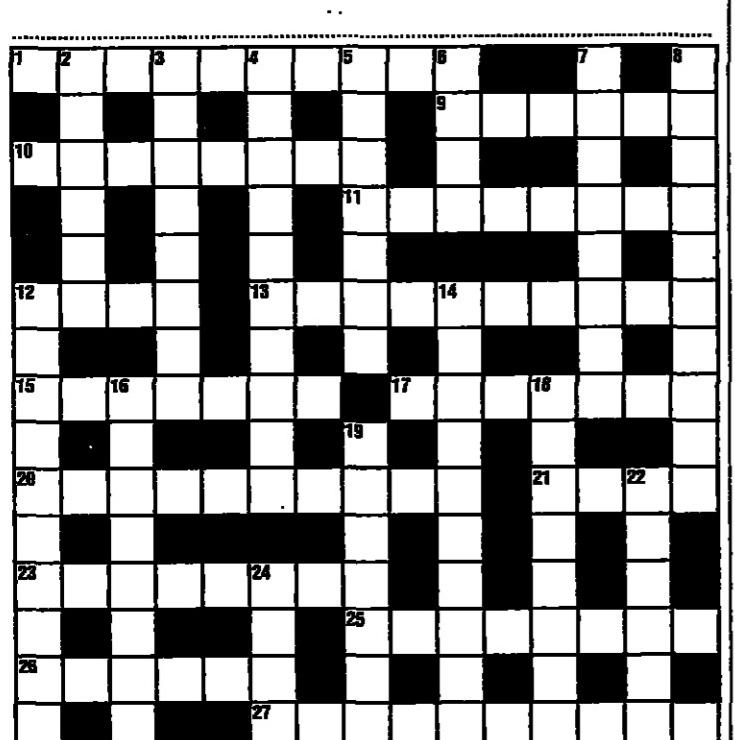
Party people: ... Page 3

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,333

ABERLOUR

A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: *The Times*, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address



- ACROSS**
 1 Zero mark given to wayward English writer (5,5).
 9 Contrive to pass on something of real value (6).
 10 Threatening relative with seizure of home (8).
 11 Quick century in search of victory (8).
 12 Runs inside extra shed (4).
 13 Put on air originally, it offers view of the way ahead (10).
 15 Ly ing about not working (7).
 17 Baggage lines protected by armed force (7).
 20 Remarkable effect of mimicry (10).
 21 Force unit to rebel, after soldiers leave the front (4).
 23 Boy accepts a little taste - it's pungent (8).
 25 Pronounce Boxy Rising, say, to have been too late (5,3).
 26 Used to suffering and being put out (6).
 27 Make very happy about 'Arry's college (10).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,327

Solution to Puzzle No 20,332

ESPIRIT DE CORPS
 NIGER HUGO
 DEXTERITY SIOUX
 ESGHMR
 ADLER INTO DEMO
 EDISDH
 ONSTAGE CLEARED
 OK CAM
 RIVIERA WHO SWHO
 MERRIN V
 OKRA OTIC DUPL
 REGDHSOM
 SCIFI EPITOIMISE
 GFACTULUN
 NATIONALIST

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: P McLaughlin, St Helier; Jersey; R Ashton, Malling, Essex; S Clegg, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; J Gillespie, Bucks.

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises 7.32 am Sun sets 4.02 pm

Moon rises 5.12 am Moon sets 3.29 pm

Full moon November 25

London 4.02 pm to 7.34 am

Bristol 4.11 pm to 7.43 am

Edinburgh 3.53 pm to 8.07 am

Manchester 4.01 pm to 7.51 am

Perth 4.29 pm to 7.50 am

TOMORROW

Sunrise 7.34 am Sunsets 4.01 pm

Moonrise 6.22 am Moonset 4.05 pm

Full moon tomorrow

London 4.01 pm to 7.35 am

Bristol 4.10 pm to 7.45 am

Edinburgh 3.53 pm to 8.09 am

Manchester 4.01 pm to 7.53 am

Perth 4.28 pm to 7.51 am

ABROAD

14 57 Cork 16 59 Majors 19 68 Rome 14 57

23 71 Dublin 20 68 Madrid 20 68

Algiers 21 70 Dubrovnik 21 70 Sanzibar 4 59